History of Campsites and Crestline on Palomar Mountain

Peter Brueggeman, 2026

Information and photograph sources in this biography are cited **except** for ancestry.com, familysearch.org, and findagrave.com; therefore, an uncited fact or photograph came from those sources. Property records were not researched; the properties noted are listed in the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office Records database or found in newspaper notices.

Now known as Birch Hill and Crestline, the Campsites subdivision on Palomar Mountain was started in 1920 by **Reid Wallace** and **Spencer Scott Purkey** on land owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey, widow of a cousin of the Theodore Baileys [1,3].

Reid Wallace, undated Anthony Swanson photo

Wallace was commonly known by his middle name of Reid, with his full name being William Reid Wallace. William Reid Wallace was born in Illinois on May 6, 1864, and he married Sallie Anthony Burge (1866 -- 1948) in Tennessee in 1894. They had six children: William Reid, Burge Manly, Henrietta Mary "Etta Mae", Thomas Buress, J.G. Dodge, Alice Sue, and Sarah H. "Peaches." Peaches Wallace was an aviator who was the second woman in the United States to obtain a glider license and held a record for time aloft in 1930 [81]. Reid Wallace died June 8, 1939 [29].

Spencer Scott Purkey was born in South Dakota on May 4, 1891. In May 1923, he married Reid Wallace's daughter Henrietta Mary 'Etta Mae' Wallace (1898 – 1958+) [79]. They later divorced and she was a writer for the San Diego Union newspaper under the byline Etta Mae Wallace. Spencer Scott Purkey died August 14, 1970.

c1924 'Wallace Family' photo crop
Peter Brueggeman photo

From left: Scott Purkey, Mrs. W. Wallace, Reid Wallace, Mrs. Etta Mae Wallace Purkey

In addition to Reid Wallace and Scott Purkey, other developers of Camp Sites and adjacent tracts included **Everett Clyde Linthicum**, **Lucius Carlisle 'Carl' Mendenhall**, and **Milton Fenelon Bailey**.

Everett Clyde and **Anna Linthicum,**
undated … they married in 1910
Sue Linthicum Lo Coco photo

Everett Clyde Linthicum was born in Kansas on December 13,1884 [80].

He married Anna Lucy Bessell in 1910; she was a schoolteacher and known to all as Mammy [80].

They had four children: Clifford Lucien, Eugene Clyde, Marjorie Grace, and William Earl [80].

Carl and **Retha Mendenhall**, undated … they married in 1910 Mendenhall family photo

Lucius Carlisle 'Carl' Mendenhall was born on Palomar Mountain on January 8, 1886.

His father was Sylvester Jacob Mendenhall, whose father was Enos Thomas Mendenhall.

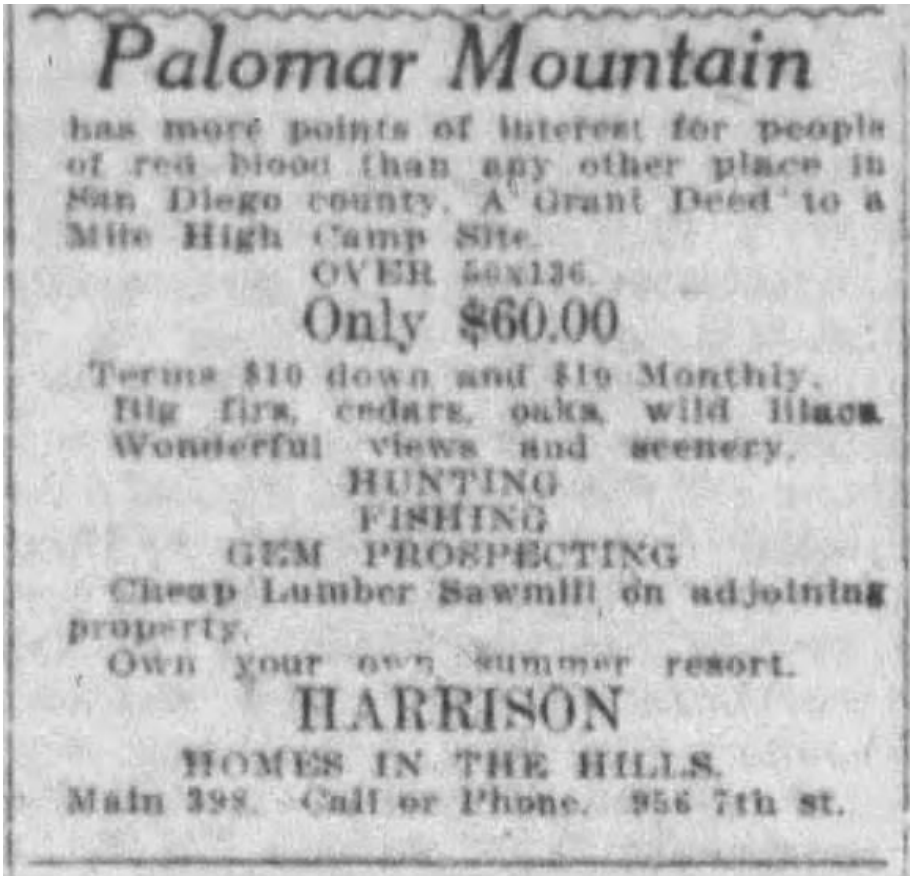
Carl married Retha May Newlin in 1910, and they had nine children: Charles Richard, Leona May, John Edward, Helen Louise, Sylvester Jacob, Ruth Eleanor, Robert William, Anne Elizabeth, and Mary Carol. Carl Mendenhall died August 12, 1972.

Milton Fenelon Bailey was born in Illinois on September 15, 1884. He married Adalind Shaul in 1913, and they had two sons: Stephen Trabue and Gilbert Newton. He died December 24, 1938.

The San Diego Union reported in July 1921 [68]:

> PUBLICITY RESULTS IN DEVELOPMENT PLANS ON PALOMAR
>
> New Hotel and Number of Cabins, Road Improvements, Mail Service
>
> PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, July 8. – As one of the results of the publicity campaign conducted by the Palomar Mountain Good Roads association, and which terminated with the staging of the highly successful weekend motor excursion of June 25 and 26, announcement is made of development plans of considerable magnitude, although the details are not ready for publication, it is said. The building of a new hotel and the erection of a number of cabins, road improvements, mail service betterment and the building of numerous trails are among the enterprises projected. … E.C. Linthicum, manager of the new sawmill, between Planwydd and the site of the old mill in Pedley valley, announced that he has orders for the construction of seven log cabins on his 160-acre tract, which tract he proposes to sell of in acre or small holdings. He will get out the lumber at his sawmill. The walls will be of pine logs, split in two, the construction being similar to that of the Stanley Davis house near the Iron springs. …

The Escondido Times-Advocate newspaper mentions Reid Wallace building a store on Palomar Mountain in November 1921 [6].


Palomar Mountain
has more points of interest for people of red blood than any other place in San Diego county. A Grant Deed to a Mile High Camp Site.
OVER 50x136.
Only $60.00
Terms $10 down and $10 Monthly.
Big firs, cedars, oaks, wild lilacs.
Wonderful views and scenery.
HUNTING
FISHING
GEM PROSPECTING
Cheap Lumber Sawmill on adjoining property.
Own your own summer resort.
HARRISON
HOMES IN THE HILLS.
Main 398. Call or Phone. 956 7th st.

San Diego Sun, December 12, 1921, page 20, column 5

San Diego Sun, December 27, 1921, page 14, column 4

On April 15, 1922, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [63]:

> LINTHICUM SECURES PIPE AND ENGINE FOR HIS PLANT
>
> E.C. Linthicum, through an exchange of Palomar lots, has secured the pipe and engine for a pumping plant and water system at the Palomar resort which he and his associates are promoting. Men went to Palomar Saturday to start work on the well.

On June 29, 1922, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported [33]:

> BIG DOINGS AT PALOMAR CAMP
>
> CEMENT GOES UP FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BIG SWIMMING POOL – LUMBER FOR SEVERAL HOUSES, ALSO
>
> Much is doing these days in the way of development of the Palomar Camp Site of Linthicum & Wallace on top of Palomar mountain. People who have visited the tract recently report that it looks like a bee hive, with houses going up and excavation going down for water pipe lines, swimming pool and foundations. A truck load of cement left Escondido Thursday for the camp site. It will be used in constructing the swimming pool, which is to be 40 by 80 feet in lateral dimensions and eight feet deep at one end. A stream of fresh mountain water will be running through the pool all of the time. Pipe for two miles of water mains and laterals was hauled Thursday by Webb Brothers, for use in building a water system over the tract. An abundance of water has been secured for the camp site. Mrs. Florence Underwood bought the lumber Wednesday for two screened building that will be used for sanitarium purposes at the camp. Mr. Dannels, of Coronado, has completed his bungalow on his tract. Mrs. Mary Frew and the Misses Grace and Gula Frew have ordered the lumber for the construction of their cottage, having bought a lot in the tract some times ago. E.C. Linthicum made the trip to Palomar Thursday, taking two campers who want to spend a few weeks on the mountain.

In June 1922, the Oceanside Blade reported [32]:

> BOOSTING PALOMAR RESORT
>
> W.R. Wallace of the Palomar mountain resort was in Oceanside Monday. The proprietors of the resort have arranged to take up passengers and prospective purchasers of lots at the resort in an auto stage, which makes the trip from Oceanside and Escondido Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. A number of improvements are being made at the mountain resort and the present is an excellent time to make the trip, as the mountain is exceptionally beautiful at this time of year.

The first mentions of the Palomar Campsite Company in the Escondido Times-Advocate newspaper were in August 1922 [2].

When the original subdivisions were made, they were intended for camp sites, and many lots were small in size [1]. In 1937, Catharine Wood wrote eloquently about them … [3]

> As a starter a few acre lots were sold at one hundred dollars each, but the larger section on top was divided by metes and bounds into smaller lots without regard to contour, and to this day some people who bought lots without careful investigation are hunting their camp sites in the depth of some canyon wilderness.

It was reported that Scott S. Purkey left the Palomar Campsites Company in August 1922 to become a reporter with the Escondido Times-Advocate newspaper, and then he and Reid Wallace opened the Escondido Nursery in November 1922 [4,7]. It's evident later that Purkey continued association with the Campsites.

Nursery Stock

Citrus, Deciduous, Ornamental — Best of stock, prices, and true to name. — Call or leave orders at 146 Grand Avenue, or call Phone 273. — We deliver.

Escondido Nursery
W. R. WALLACE, Mgr.

Escondido Times-Advocate, 14 November 1922, page 4, column 1

Beautify Your Store, Home & Lawn

We have on hand a wonderful selection of Ferns, Palms, Shrubs, Shade Trees and any other Ornamentals that you might desire. Call in and see us or phone 273.

Escondido Nursery
W. R. WALLACE, Mgr.

Escondido Times-Advocate, 28 November 1922, page 4, column 1

The Oceanside Blade published this on September 16, 1922 [34]:

> PALOMAR POPULAR WITH OCEANSIDERS
>
> Reid Wallace of the Palomar Camp Site was in Oceanside Monday on his way to San Diego where he was to buy several large tanks and several thousand feet of two inch pipe as a portion of the water system which is being put in at the Camp Site, is now being completed and there is a store with a stock of goods for campers. There is a twice a week stage and a truck line in operation from Escondido or passengers may go from Oceanside by way of Escondido. An appropriation of $15,000 has been placed in the budget by the supervisors for the completion of the road up the east side of the mountain from the lower end of Fink Valley to the Louis Salmons ranch and when this work is finished it will be an easy auto ride up the mountain, nearly all in high gear, which means a fine mountain road. At the foot of the grade will be Warner Lake made by the completion of the Warner Dam and this is counted on to become an attractive resort with trout and bass fishing and boating. A party going to the Palomar Camp Site from Oceanside Sunday was composed of Mr and Mrs CT McKeehan, Miss Ryan, and Mrs Stone, with Mrs Gormley, Mrs Coop, Mrs Comer and Miss Durant of Cardiff. The party was in charge of JB Malmstrom. Among local people who have bought camp sites are included Mrs M Allen, Dr OP Hart, Dr HF Crandall, Mr and Mrs Frank Butler, Mrs S Stone, JB Malmstrom, CT McKeehan and Mr and Mrs HP Johnson.

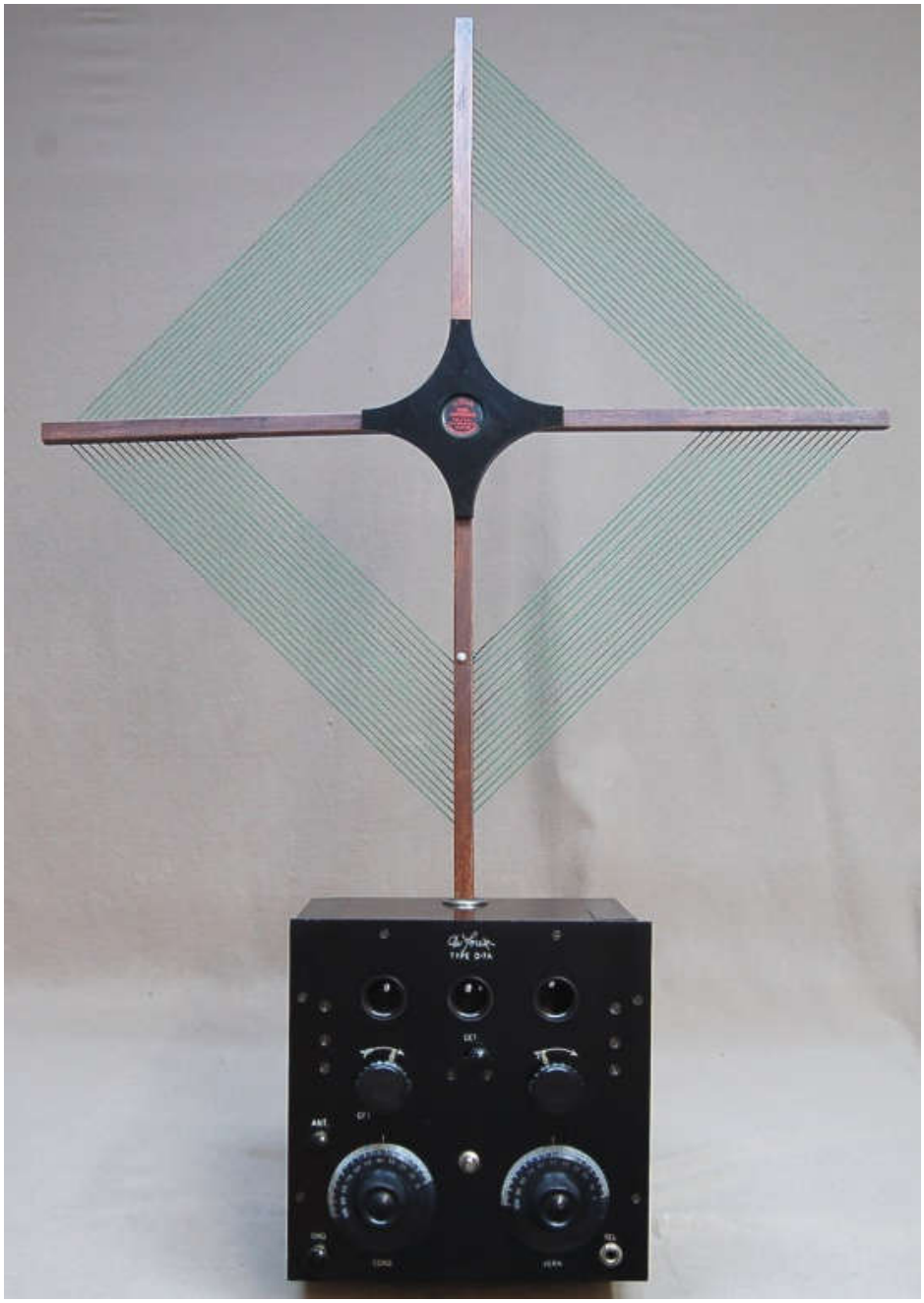
The Linthicums ran a store and postoffice at Campsites (Anna Linthicum was the Palomar Mountain postmaster from August 15 to October 20, 1922), but their house, store and postoffice burned down on November 12, 1922, and the family moved off Palomar [67].

In mid-December 1922, the Escondido Times-Advocate reported that Reid Wallace and his son Burge Manly Wallace (1897-1986) brought down Christmas trees from Palomar Mountain to sell at the Escondido Nursery [8].

The Palomar Campsite development started appearing as the two words “Camp Sites” in 1923 newspapers.

In 1923, Carl Mendenhall became an agent for an additional subdivision of 40 acres of adjoining Pedley land, also called Campsites [Frank B. and Estelle Pedley] [1,5]. Reid Wallace and Carl Mendenhall built roads and donated land for a store and restaurant [5].

An April 1923 item in the Escondido Times-Advocate stated that Reid Wallace and Scott Purkey moved to San Diego and were continuing with the Escondido Nursery business while pursuing investment business and the sale of Palomar camp sites [12]. The nursery was sold sometime later [18].



In July 1923, a De Forest radio set was installed at Palomar Campsite with "… all the latest news and concerts as soon as broadcasted out of Los Angeles. [13]"

Annie C. Fisher writes about a 1923 trip to Palomar Mountain Campsites published in a three-part series in the La Jolla Light newspaper starting in late October … [10]

> From early spring the beauty of Palomar mountains had been continually sounded in my ears and in the latter part of May some wonderful specimens of wild flowers, to be found there in such gorgeous profusion, were shown me and I was advised to lose no time in taking this trip. These thickly wooded mountains, comprising hundreds of acres of fertile soil are being divided into lots and rapidly sold, everyone upon seeing the place becoming anxious to procure a cabin site and I was urged to "get in on the ground floor," but somehow the summer slipped by and still the trip had not been taken. The first week in October however, the opportunity came. A friend owning a cabin in the most picturesque spot and at the very top, kindly handed me her key and told me to use her cabin for as many days as I cared to stay, so a bag was packed with necessities and several hours of precious sleep lost in anxiously scanning time pieces that I might be ready at the early hour appointed for starting and not keep the driver waiting. At length the morning dawned clear and beautiful and with a balmy breeze blowing such as one encounters nowhere else but in La Jolla and at 6:10 the start was made. I glanced back at the beautiful ocean with its varied colorings of purple, blue and green and streaks of lavender, feeling sure that nothing I was destined to see could equal it and as for mountains, what more, thought I, could one wish for than our beautiful Soledad, that stately sentinel of La Jolla and the sea. There was no time for regrets of any kind however, as we were being rushed at a break neck speed, through some lovely bits of country and I did not wish to miss a thing. The beautiful dull green colorings of the various trees, backed by the brilliant red brown tones of the earth were a marvel of beauty, these brown tones ranged from yellow ochre to the richest burnt sienna and the leaves of the trees which are in some places taking on their autumn tints, presented patches of vivid scarlet, which was a delight to eyes fast becoming used to continued green the year round. The violet of the iron stems of some of the bushes, whose leaves were quite gone, also added their touch of color to the general scheme of beauty, and in the distance we saw the mountains, whose peaks were gilded by the morning sun.

Soon we were surrounded by mountains and ran for miles between great rocks and boulders of solid granite, below us were many fertile valleys and prosperous looking farms and, oh, the trees, time honored sycamores and oaks of every variety, perhaps that of the live oak, with its prickly leaves so like holly, predominated. There were many other kinds we knew nothing of and dared not trouble the driver, he was busy. This ride has been called a thriller and it is, because here we were on a road cut on a mountain side just wide enough for an automobile, no room for another to pass and below us for hundreds of feet the summit. It was beautiful, but hazardous and if a car came from the other direction one or the other had to back to a place where an occasional provision is made for just such an encounter, by a few extra feet being hollowed out of the mountain side, which makes it possible to pass. We were delighted by the sight of the blue waters of Henshaw lake and this sight kept recurring and we were seeing it at different angles as the car kept going up. The air was becoming nippy now, and we wished we could get warmer wraps, but one never cares to give trouble on a trip of this kind, so we gradually accustomed ourselves to the cooler air and waited for an opportunity to ask the driver about a certain tree, the peculiar coloring of the bark or trunk, had marked is as very unusual. I was told that it was a Manzanita.

Well, to make a short story, we came eighty miles through the most beautiful mountain scenery the imagination could depict and finally we were assisted to the ground at the Wallace Camp, where prospective buyers are made welcome and treated royally to a good dinner, which usually has, among other things excellent venison steak. These mountains are quite famous for the wild deer which roam freely through them and provide splendid hunting for the sportsman. It was cool up here and our appetites were sharpened by the long trip so we did justice to the dinner, you may be sure. There was a huge camp fire of whole logs at which we were glad to warm ourselves and we took time to enjoy and admire the immense trees surrounding us everywhere. They were just magnificent and I was reminded of the splendid trees in Stanley Park at Vancouver, B. C. These trees, thought I, must have stood

here for centuries, many of them being two hundred feet in height. After dinner we started to tramp, one then realized what it meant to be appropriately clad for mountain climbing.

Upon first arriving in California I was more or less shocked at the freedom with which women traveled about in knickers. Youth can "get away" with anything but for a lot of middle aged women in breeches to be strutting around like a bunch of prize fighters didn't appeal to me at all, it did not look feminine and there was no sense in it.

How we learn to cease criticizing as we gain experience. I would have given a good deal to be just so clad now. The ladies in this camp wore just such toggery and oh, it looked sensible the high strong boots and freedom from skirts, enabled one to kick a blazing log in place in the most approved mannish fashion. I had felt particularly virtuous when I started on this trip, because I had worn the oldest things I had and decided that nothing could hurt them anyway, but way down deep ran an inward conviction that I did not look right, but as I had nothing else, I made the best of it and tramped bravely on while my ornamental tassels dangled absurdly at my side. After much climbing to catch the view from different angles much chatter about having ones campsite thickly wooded or a possible advantage in having it more out in the open, nearness to water pipes, etc., we came to the cabin of my friend and if we exclaimed before, were gasping now. Here was a genuine log cabin set in the midst of the most picturesque surroundings one could imagine, rocks and trees combining to make it ideal, a clearing in front which commanded an unobstructed view of the immense distance below from which we had come and here one caught the very last gleams of the sun as he sank away far, far to the west. Here was privacy and seclusion sufficient to gratify the heart of the most confirmed hermit and here I was to be left alone for a few days to drink in this beauty, undisturbed by the chatter of any who might not be a lover of nature as myself. Would the loneliness pall? Should I miss the roar of the Ocean? or should I be able to sleep at all? It was very beautiful and the cabin very comfortably furnished, there were interesting books but one's friends were still present and one just could not imagine what it would be like

without them. I forgot to mention that as we came, many of the mountain tops were hidden in the clouds which in some places were hanging rather low and we had the novel experience of driving right through these clouds coming out on clear tops of mountains as our journey took us higher and now these clouds which are mist, were beginning to envelop the spot at which we now were and my friends felt they had to start back and I was urged to come on back and not stay there alone, as they feared it would turn cold, perhaps snow, but I wished this experience so kept my ground and soon they were gone and I was alone indeed. The canyons and valleys below were soon hidden from sight, nothing but grey mist everywhere, the trunks of trees nearest me being but dimly visible, but even this had a beauty all its own, the tops of the trees still stood out in irregular outline, feathery and at times indistinct, reminding me of a border of broken lace, but I must get inside if this was to continue, for soon I should not know where to step, so left this dense fog feeling a bit disappointed that I was not to see the glorious sunset, which was one of the features of this location. The lamps lighted, a cheery fire going and tea in progress I was more than contented and soon settled for a long evening at my books, here was the leisure and quiet, but what was the matter with me? I could not read, it was too quiet. I got up and moved about a bit and tried it again, but no use, this quiet was awful, why I could feel it, so decided to retire and perhaps do better next day.

Lights all out and settled for the night the quiet was more appalling than ever and now my thoughts ran riot, what was my little kitten doing at home? Had he taken advantage of the nice bed placed out on the porch for him or was he scratching at the door and wondering why I did not let him in? Did cats wonder or was it only humans who wondered why things were thus or so? Did one wish to own a cabin so far from civilization and six thousand feet above sea level? What would one do up there all alone? One might write a story and call it “Alone on the Mountain Top,” did it sound spooky or would it prove inspiring? Goodness! But it was dark. Where were those boasted stars, that were to be so brilliant and seem so near that I would feel like one of them? My! What was that noise on the roof, a wild cat? I had been told to look out for

snakes and a possible wild cat. Well it was out and I was in, so that was all right, but what familiar sound was that now reaching my ears? A low sobbing, like the ocean in its gentler moods. The wind in the trees, that was nice for it would lift the cloud and I should still see those stars, but, oh, the present dense darkness, it was awesome. If I have the quiet I was actually breathing this dark, why it was a part of me, what a strange feeling now possessed me, then came those Psalms of David to comfort me, first verse of Ninety first Psalm: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty," was I dwelling in the secret place of the Most High? Yes, I was sure of it and conscious of an increasing desire to do so and care for no other dwelling. Then came the first verse of the Twenty-seventh Psalm: The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear. Though an host -- should -- encamp -- sleep? Had I been asleep? Surely not! I had just slipped into Heaven, that was all, else how account for this beautiful light, this marvel of color everywhere. I was fully awake now and the day was dawning gloriously beautiful and I must not miss any of it. I was soon out watching those first shafts of light, the pale saffron which soon deepened into gold, then a crimson tinge and then the fall disk of the sun and the shafts of lights gradually disappeared and the few fleecy clouds in the east took on tinges of lavender and pink gold, but toward the west now I must turn my attention, for though immense area of canyons below me were filled with clouds, those soft fleecy things bumping into each other, was the mist and fog which had enveloped the mountain the night before and I was high above them looking down on them and on a scene wonderfully beautiful and I may as well confess indescribable. I was so free and ran about from place to place in an ecstasy of delight but was brought to earth by the pangs of hunger which would not be denied, bacon had never before sizzled as merrily I was certain of that, nor had coffee ever sent up a more entrancing odor. Breakfast being over I now waited for the guide who was to take me over the mountain and soon he appeared on horseback and leading another which I was expected to ride, "Oh," I greeted him, "haven't you a side saddle I cannot ride astride in this dress." "I'm sorry madam, no side saddles up here, they all ride astride but I'll go and get my wife's knickers for you," and I decided it would be best so he left me to hold the

horse I was to ride and said he would just be a few minutes. Not having any experience with horses made me a bit timid holding this one. He looked so big and strong, in fact I am sure there never had been a larger one, never, and besides I did not like the glint in his eye. I thought I might cajole him a little. “Nice horsey,” I said, in my most dulcet tones. The glint deepened and I hastily got around to the back where I need not look in his eyes, but the guide soon returned and I quickly got ready to mount him, a feat which I performed creditably enough and the guide said “are you all right,” “I think so,” I replied anxiously, “but if you want to make sure of me you’d better tie me on.” That horse flickered an attentive ear backward and took in the details of this conversation and I hoped he wasn’t storing it up against me. We started at last and were soon in the midst of thicket and bracken, lilac bushes, and shrubbery, of every description, while the pines and other trees with low growing branches made riding almost impossible at times, unless one stooped low on the horses back and allowed him to pick his way and this I soon found to be the better way, as I knew nothing whatever about guiding him properly. I trusted the tones of my voice to “make good,” with the horse and I had reason to believe this was pleasing to him, for as I patted his neck I kept up a soft, “nice horse, good old fellow, gently old boy” and he lifted his head proudly and turned an ear backward to catch more of these coaxing tones and thus we rode along past the oddest little cabins I had ever seen, many people were still enjoying camp life and I had a vision of housekeeping in the open, which was a wonder and delight to me. Oh, the freedom, the absence of convention, the general good fellowship which prevailed between the camp owners. What is there about us which makes us long to break away from civilization and get close to nature again?

Those who don’t care for it nor have ever tried it are missing much, the magnitude and general bigness is something one cannot contemplate and remain small in thoughts. I seemed to have ridden miles about this mountain, getting the view from every quarter and surely some of the places looked as if they had never been trodden on by the foot of man. We were back at the cabin on the summit at last and I saw my guide depart leading the horse I had ridden and which I had developed quite an affection for and now I had the

long sunny afternoon all to myself to read, write or do a bit of needlework in. I waited for the sun set which promised to be splendid, and it was, but I was accustomed to brilliant sunsets and this failed to produce more than a passing interest though extremely lovely and viewed from my exalted position, novel as well. Night settled down again, but how different from last night, now everything was covered with the silver radiance of the young moon. The air was crisp and invigorating, but I was to be again cheated out of the sight of starlight which, it is claimed, is so wonderful up here; the moon, of course, having everything her own way and with her superior radiance making the stars pale into insignificance beside her. I could not remain here all night, however beautiful, as an early start back was to be made next morning and I must be ready, so I entered the cabin and experienced none of the feeling of last night and soon slept. Again a glorious dawn and revelation of color was everywhere stretched out before me and I was reminded of the first verse of the Nineteenth Psalm, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork." I regret exceedingly that my powers of description are inadequate to convey to your minds this wondrous scene before me. I rejoiced in those beautiful lines from Browning's immortal poem, "Saul," "How good is man's life, the mere living! How fit to employ, all the heart the soul and the senses forever in joy!

Time passes quickly when one is so absorbed as this and I was leaving and there was much to do so I turned regretfully away and soon the journey back was begun. We took a different route back and I shall confine myself to stating, though not so picturesque, it was considered even more thrilling, there was a steep downward grade of over seven miles in which little conversation occurred, one just looked and for the most part held one's breath. This time we passed Hodges lake and wonderful dam, stopping some little time at Escondido, that thriving town noted for its celebration of "Grape Day" and upon which one is treated to the most marvelous display of grapes and most generously supplied with them, then on home. It was a wonderful trip, every minute filled with pleasant surprises. Those owning cabins on Palomar will never tire of the journey back and forth because it is so different from ordinary

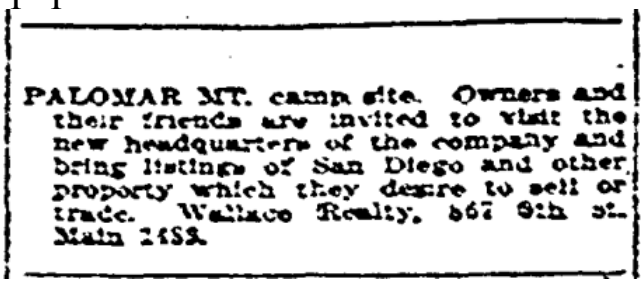
scenery and one can only advise those who have not already done so, to take this trip.

An article on another Palomar Mountain Campsites visit appeared in the La Jolla Light newspaper in October 1923 … [14]

Palomar Growing Popular with La Jollans

Miss Caroline Phelps and [illegible] returned home Sunday, after a very pleasant fortnight's stay at Palomar, where she was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tillinghast. There was a large delegation from La Jolla spending the week end at this popular resort. Mr. Tillinghast had a quantity of apples and a cider press, so there was plenty to drink and, in the evening, a large camp fire was surrounded by Misses Amy Tillinghast and Garretson, Mrs. E. L. Brewer, Mrs. Vincil Stewart and daughter, Mrs. Macbeth of Seattle, Mr. and Mrs. Melzer and Miss Regina, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Norcross, Mr. and Mrs. Will Zader, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Perry, Mrs. Mowry and Mrs. S. C. Dempsey. Nearly all of these people have invested in lots up on Palomar and some of them have very nice cabins. There is an abundance of good water, thanks to the "Water Witch." Mr. Tillinghast is busy putting in a saw mill, and has a number of cottages to build, when he has the lumber. The trees and scenery are wonderful and well worth going to see.

A December 1923 newspaper classified ad for Palomar Mountain campsites [15].

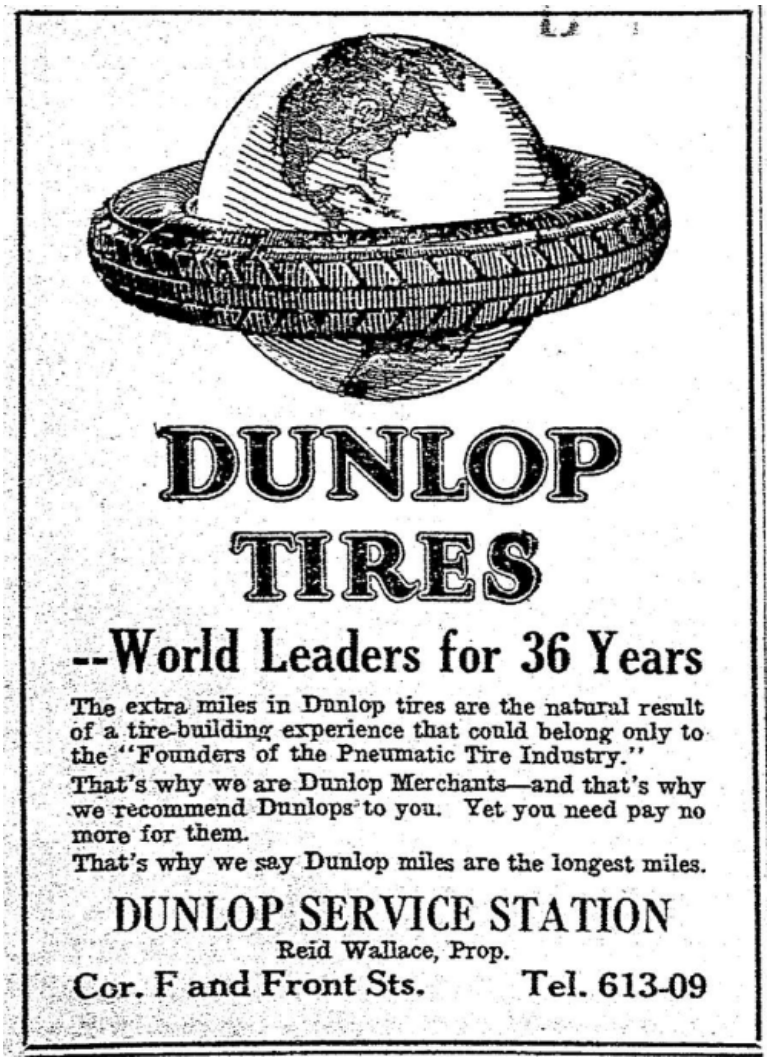

PALOMAR MT. camp site. Owners and their friends are invited to visit the new headquarters of the company and bring listings of San Diego and other property which they desire to sell or trade. Wallace Realty, 867 9th st. Main 1498.

Palomar Mountain Christmas Trees
50c AND UP
—At—
WALLACE REALTY
867 Ninth Street
Phone 1498

In December 1923, Reid Wallace was selling Palomar Mountain Christmas trees [16].

Reid Wallace (in hat) and his son J. G. Dodge Wallace (1904-1964), undated

Anthony Swanson photo


DUNLOP
TIRES
--World Leaders for 36 Years
The extra miles in Dunlop tires are the natural result of a tire-building experience that could belong only to the "Founders of the Pneumatic Tire Industry."
That's why we are Dunlop Merchants—and that's why we recommend Dunlops to you. Yet you need pay no more for them.
That's why we say Dunlop miles are the longest miles.
DUNLOP SERVICE STATION
Reid Wallace, Prop.
Cor. F and Front Sts. Tel. 613-09

An undated brochure for the Palomar Mountain Camp Site & Club House development produced by Reid Wallace (see below) has an F Street, San Diego address with telephone number 613-09.

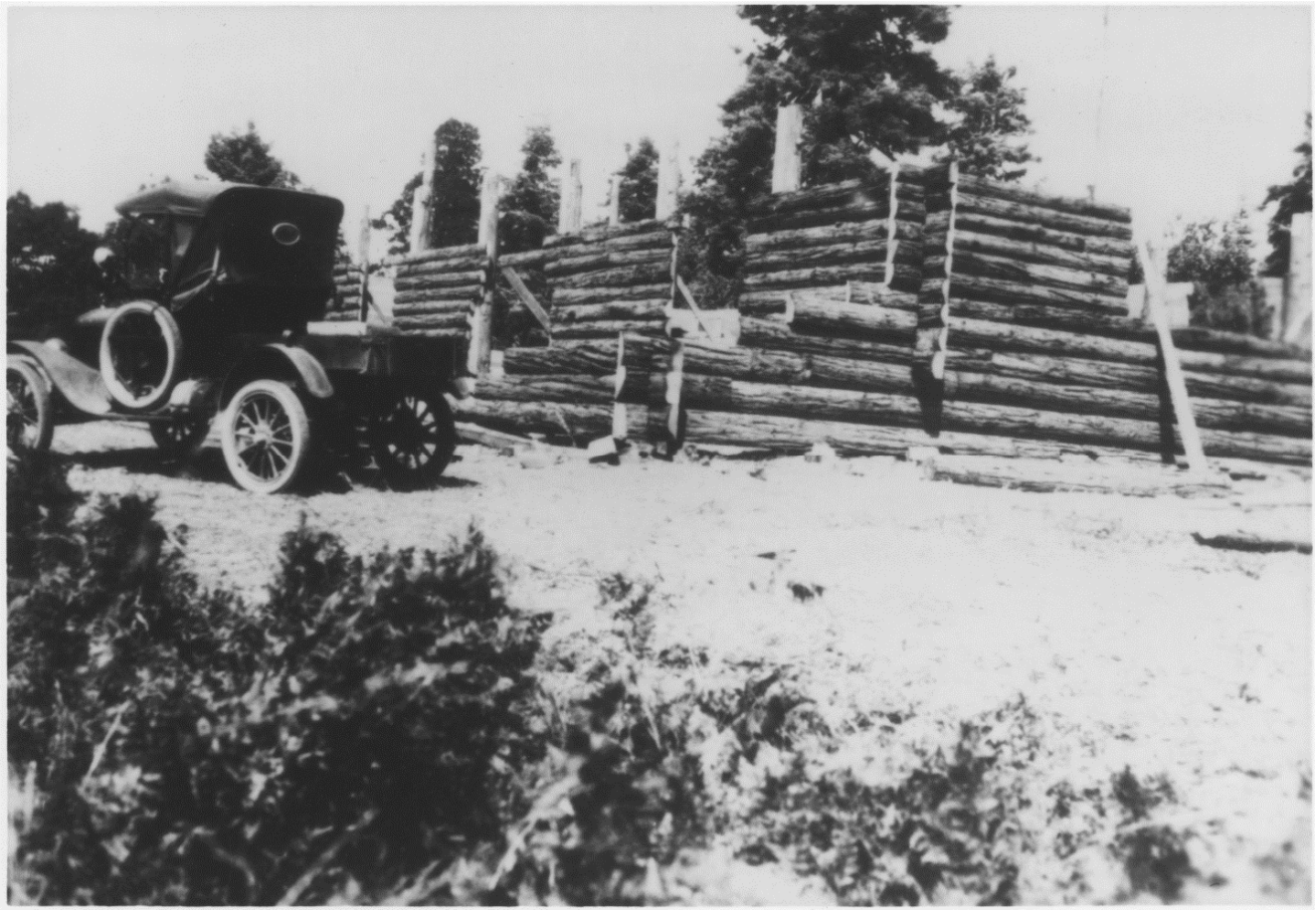
A 1924 newspaper advertisement for Dunlop Tires has Reid Wallace as the proprietor of a Dunlop Service Station at that address and telephone number [9].

PICTURESQUE CAMP SITES ON TOP
OF BEAUTIFUL PALOMAR MTS.
ONLY A FEW LEFT. SCENIC TRIP.
For details write Box 444, San Diego. x

San Diego Sun, June 7, 1924, page 22, column 1

Marion Beckler writes … [1]

> Then the first cabin owners got together and raised a fund for the building of a clubhouse. Ralph Tillinghast, who was operating the sawmill, supplied cedar logs and sawed lumber of cedar and fir, and a fine community house was built. Stanley Davis built the fireplace. Then Lawyer Stickney incorporated it.



Campsites clubhouse construction
August 1924 [19,30]

The Campsites clubhouse was built by Ralph Tillinghast, Ernest W. Oliver (carpenter) and his son Harold Oliver (it's his Ford Model T in the photo above) [30].

All logs and timbers were cut from Palomar trees by Ralph Tillinghast at a sawmill in Pedley Valley [30].

Campsites clubhouse under construction August 1924 [19,30]

Ralph Tillinghast building the Campsites clubhouse
August 1924 [19,27,30]

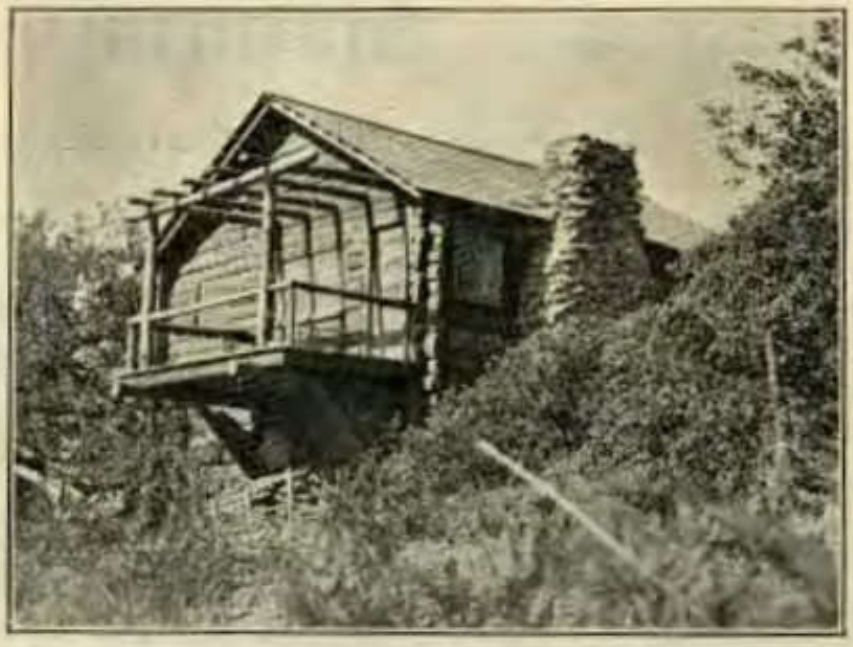
Method of bolting Campsites clubhouse
August 1924 [19,30]

Palomar Mountain

CAMP SITE & CLUB HOUSE

829 E STREET PHONE 614-45
201 F STREET PHONE 613-09
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

F1892



PALOMAR MOUNTAIN CAMP SITE

The Palomar Camp Site is located on the extreme top of the South Palomar ridge at an elevation of approximately 6000 feet and includes within its borders some of the finest timber on the mountain. The campsite also commands the justly famous Palomar view and is cooled in summer by gentle breezes direct from the ocean less than thirty miles away. It is possible for one's mountain home to be secluded among the big trees or perched upon some rocky promontory overlooking the view.

About forty cabins have already been built with several new ones under construction. Building material may be had on the ground at San Diego prices plus the actual cost of freighting. Most attractive cabins also may be constructed of native cedar and fir half-sawed logs. Cabin sites vary in size up to several acres and are supplied with water by the Palomar Mutual Water Company, a non-profit organization. A general store and restaurant which is prepared to supply camping equipment and groceries, is located near the center of the campsite. Lovers of riding will find good horses always available at reasonable rates.

Campsite prices are governed by the size, amount of view, timber, location and general attractiveness of the site.

THE PALOMAR MOUNTAIN CLUBHOUSE

The Palomar Mountain Clubhouse is centrally located on one of the scenic points of the Palomar Mountain Campsite. It is a company largely financed by the campsite owners. The main building is 30x60 feet and is in condition to be used for dances, parties and programs. A series of week-end events are planned for the vacation season beginning July 4th, which will include programs, dances and inspirational talks.

When completed the buildings will include a number of attractive cedar-slab sleeping cabins as well as the main building with wide veranda and double fireplace. Outside improvements will include tennis courts and croquet grounds. Ownership of a small amount of the capital stock of the company entitles the holder to full club privileges, besides offering an attractive investment.

AMUSEMENTS

Amusements include riding, hunting, trout fishing, hiking, campfire parties and dancing.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Furnished cabins may be rented at reasonable rates, but should be reserved in advance. Excellent table service is available at the dining room near the clubhouse.

ROADS

East route via El Cajon, Ramona, Santa Ysabel, Henshaw Lake and up the East grade, 75 miles from San Diego to the Campsite.

West route via Escondido, Valley Center, Rincon, and up the Nigger Canyon grade, 70 miles to the Campsite.

Both routes are in excellent condition for the summer and are wide, safe highways, but the East route is recommended as the easier drive, inasmuch as when present work is completed this year the grade up the mountain will be a seven per cent high-gear highway all the way to the top.

After reaching the top of the Mountain follow the Palomar Mountain Campsite signs to the Clubhouse.

THE PALOMAR MOUNTAIN TRIP

The round trip to the Palomar Mountain Campsite, a distance of about seventy miles, may be made pleasantly in one day, as the driving time one way is from three to four hours; but it is an outing upon which each added hour is added pleasure, especially is this true of the enchanting hours of sunrise and sunset.

The back country highway, intriguing one with its mist veiled foothills and the tranquility of its pastoral scenes leads to the twenty-mile long Rainbow drive winding up one end of Palomar and down the other. This scenic drive embraces a view studenpous in its magnitude; is bordered by flowers remarkable for their variety, abundance and beauty, and leads now and again through heavily wooded slopes reminiscent of Easter nand Northern forests.

In spring the purple lupin sprays the mountainside, the graceful Mariposa lily nods a greeting from the ledges, shining buttercups varnish the meadows with yellow, the showering blossoms of the white lilac often meet overhead to form pathways which rival a bridal arch, white myriads of less familiar blooms, sown at random by the great Landscape Gardener, inveigle the eye which delights in the perfection of detail.

In June the delicate, waxen clusters of azaleas perfume the air, and later the tiger lilies lend an unexpected glow to their canyon habitats. The cool, calm atmosphere of fall brings out a new symphony in trees, shrubs and skyline. The colors seem to ripen and the distant view becomes so clarified that the coast lies in relief like a map drawn by some giant artist who, "splashed on a ten league canvas, with brushes of comet's hair." Then winter, not to be outdone, comes with draperies of snow and jewels of ice to dress the trees in shimmering, lacy, whiteness. In fact, each month gives a reason all its own for making the trip to Palomar.

For the lover of wild life Palomar affords no end of delightful surprises. Mountain quail, innumerable song birds, and graceful tree squirrels abound daily; more rarely a deer, fox, bobcat or mountain lion may be momentarily glimpsed on the mountainside.

The location of Palomar mountain, only thirty miles from the sea, with an elevation at the same time of over a mile, makes possible the heaviest of timber and the coolest of summers. Individual trees are numerous which measure more than six feet in diameter and tower one hundred and fifty feet skyward. Varieties include sycamore, spruce, cedar, oak, hemlock, fir, pine, dogwood and manzanita.

The distant view includes many miles of tumbled, picturesque mountains, a vast expanse of foothills interspersed with fertile valleys and dotted here and there with lakes, with a background of the blue water of the Pacific extending 150 miles from Catalina to Old Mexico; while directly beneath one's feet is spread the exquisite picture of the four thousand feet deep canyon of the San Louis Rey. For those who yield to the enchantment of Palomar and linger to look long, the sun on a summer afternoon may burnish the ocean until it dazzles the eye like melted gold; on an evening it may turn into a sea of opal the billowy clouds which make islands of the higher mountain peaks; or, more often, the night drifts down in layers of blue.

The regular stage and sight-seeing cars leave all through the week for the mountain. For any information concerning the Campsite, Clubhouse, sight-seeing trips or stages, phone or call and see W. R. Wallace or S. S. Purkey, 614-45 or 613-09, 829 E Street or 201 F Street, San Diego, Calif.

“Wallace Camp on Palomar Mt – Peaches on the swing”

Sarah “Peaches” Wallace, daughter of Reid Wallace, c1924

Peter Brueggeman photo

Unidentified at Joe Robinson's Crestline cabin, July 1924

Anthony Swanson photo

Marion Beckler writes … [1]

> This clubhouse was the place of evening gatherings for people of the community. They walked from their cabins with lanterns which they placed about for light. They visited about the big fireplace, or they danced, and they sat out on the porch with its view of all the vast country and cities below.

On August 3, 1924, the San Diego Union published a Palomar Mountain article which noted the beginning of sales for Milton Bailey's Cedar Crest cabin development on that day, and included the following photo, captioning it as [65]:

> … shows a logging operation at Cedar Crest where already 100,000 feet of lumber has been cut for construction of cabins.

Logging operation at Cedar Crest on Palomar Mountain, 1924
Published in San Diego Union, August 3, 1924 [65]
San Diego History Center

Up Among the Big Trees on

Palomar *the wonder mountain*

ANNOUNCING to the people of San Diego a great new mountain playground so astonishingly different from the County's other back country spots as to appear a miracle of nature—Cedar Crest on Palomar, an easy four-hour ride north from San Diego, and three if you hurry.

Neither words nor pictures can capture the magnificent spirit of Palomar, the green, cool mountain which wandered down from the Northland into San Diego County's hot reaches—and remained green and cool. Palomar resembles everything but southern California. Some say the Maker set it here to comfort the homesick from every state in the Union. In it the Southerner beholds again his beloved Blue Ridge Mountains; the Easterner, the Adirondacks and the White; the Middlewesterner, the Ozarks; the Northerner, the untrodden Cascades.

Utterly Different

Palomar is utterly different—realize this at once. It is no more like San Diego's usual back country mountains than its gigantic firs, cedars, spruce and pine are like their eucalyptus and live oak. Palomar is northern, not southern.

Palomar is distinct in its climate, its trees and flowers, its bird and animal life. Because it is the only mountain in San Diego County which does not touch the desert, and is open to the ocean, it is the only spot inside the County cooler in midsummer than San Diego by the sea. Because Palomar enjoys 60 inches of precipitation annually (mostly in the form of snow), its rainfall is higher than that of Boston, Seattle, Nashville or New Orleans. This in San Diego County, mind you!

The vegetation of Palomar is northern—fir, cedar, pine, spruce, oak (Valparaiso and black), dogwood, azaleas, ferns, tiger lilies, choke cherries, wild gooseberries and strawberries, and other growth characteristic of the Northwest and New England. For the lover of birds and wild flowers, Palomar is a fascinating field, abounding in varieties not found at lower levels.

Atop the World

The famous Palomar panorama includes 150 miles of coast line from Santa Monica to far into Mexico, overlooking Santa Catalina, San Clemente, Lake Elsinore, San Diego Bay, Point Loma and Coronado Islands. At night the street lights of Escondido, Oceanside, Del Mar and San Diego can be plainly seen. The extreme summit of Palomar, 6126 feet elevation, can be reached by foot or horseback. The huge dimensions of Palomar Mountain afford 150 square miles of inexhaustible walks and drives—here you can really get back to Nature.

"The Pride of Palomar"

Cedar Crest, "The Pride of Palomar Mountain," is now being subdivided into cabin sites with water, costing only $350 each; small down payment, easy terms, and will finance your cabin. From $75,000 to $100,000 will be spent on tract improvement. Already 100,000 feet of lumber have been logged, ideal for the building of the cabins. Roads have been cut and will be paved with granite; $15,000 will be spent on a Civic Center, including a general store. Constructive restrictions will assure an artistic type of rustic architecture in keeping with Palomar; also unobstructed views from each cabin.

If San Diego is your permanent home, you will want a Palomar residence. If you are contemplating a summer home in the mountains, by all means inspect Cedar Crest before purchasing elsewhere, as its virility, big distances and general "he-man" character will give you a new conception of back country charm and delight. Also, hurry your purchase of Cedar Crest, as these magnificent year-'round cabinsites will not last long at the price. Los Angeles is investing heavily in Palomar, and half the several hundred present residents of the mountain are from that enterprising city, the result being that much Palomar property is already higher priced than Cedar Crest, despite the fact that this is the only portion of the mountain now accessible the year around.

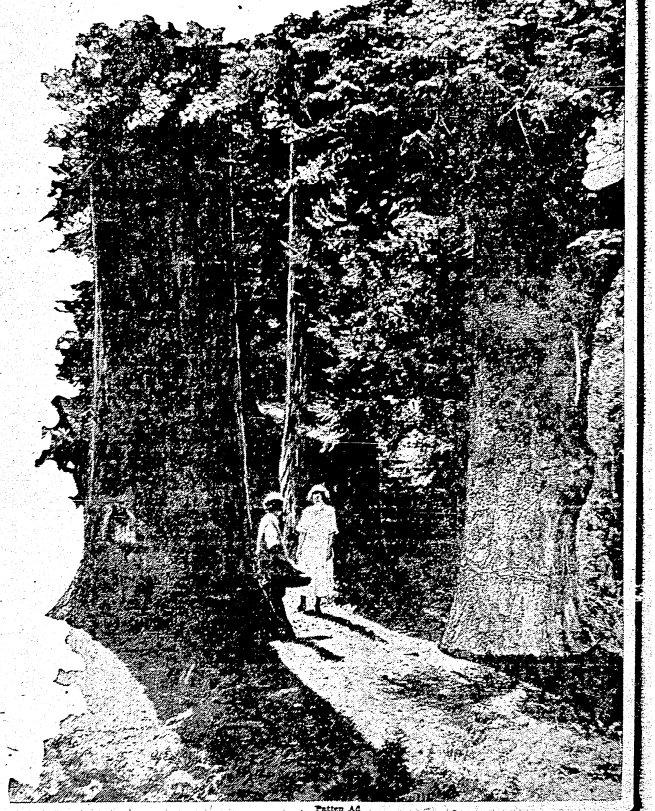
How to Reach Cedar Crest

From San Diego via La Mesa, Ramona, Santa Ysabel, Lake Henshaw, over the new Palomar grade—75 miles. From San Diego via Escondido, Valley Center and Rincon—70 miles. The completion of the new Ramona pavement, and the cutting of a new four-mile road near Cedar Crest will mean paved highway half way to the tract, and the balance a fine dirt road, which will reduce traveling time to Cedar Crest to well under three hours. In the meantime, the quickest and easiest way to Cedar Crest is by La Mesa, Ramona and Lake Henshaw.

Bring your lunch and picnic at Cedar Crest, with its giant trees and running streams, or you can find accommodations at Bailey's Palomar Lodge by day, week or month, where there are horseback riding, hiking, trout fishing, dancing, hunting, tennis, etc.; also a post-office, general store and telephone to San Diego.

If you have no car and wish to see Palomar Mountain, or if you wish to reserve a Cedar Crest cabin site without leaving San Diego, call at the office of Dr. Milton Bailey, Spreckels Bldg., San Diego. Telephone 619-37.

"That Island in the Air"--Palomar



Year-'round

CEDAR CREST

"The Pride of Palomar"

Ask at Cedar Crest for Frank Burley, Tract Mgr.

Patten Ad

On August 6, 1924, the San Diego Evening Tribune published an article on the Bailey's Cedar Crest development [69]:

> PLAN BIG SUM FOR WORK AT PALOMAR
>
> Dr. Milton Bailey's offering of cabinsites at Cedar Crest on Palomar, … [text on Palomar weather and landscape] … According to Dr. Bailey, from $75,000 to $100,000 will be spent on the improvement of Cedar Crest, which is the only portion of Palomar now accessible the year-round. Already 100-000 feet of lumber have been logged for the building of cabins. Roads have been cut through the giant trees and will be paved with granite. Fifteen thousand dollars will be spent on a Civic center, including a store.

On August 6, 1924, the San Diego Union published an article on an upcoming Palomar Mountain Good Roads association motor tour, including [66]:

> The San Diego county supervisors are coming to Palomar mountain for this week-end as the guests of the Palomar Mountain Good Roads association, which is working on a program of entertainment expected to interest them. … Tentative plans are as follows: Assemble at Cedar Crest, east grade, one mile above the Salmons place, at 4 p.m. Saturday, spending an hour there as guests of the Cedar Crest camp of Kenney and Bailey. Thence to National Forest club, or Roberts place, for sunset view; thence to the Bailey and Wallace camp hotels for dinner. Camp fire at Wallace's and dance at Bailey's. …

This schedule was revised a couple of days later to meet at Cedar Crest and then go "to the Wallace Palomar mountain camp site for a sightseeing tour, dinner and camp fire" and then "proceed to Bailey's hotel and camp for a grand ball" [70].

An August 16, 1924, news story appeared in the San Diego Union on the Palomar Mountain Good Roads Association lobbying San Diego County officials to build the east grade road, which ended with festivities on Palomar Mountain [17]:

> … A warm welcome was extended the guests upon their arrival at Cedar Crest, the new resort just opened up on the east side and

which is the property of Dr. Milton Bailey. … Interest centered in the installation of the 50-horsepower steam saw mill, under charge of J.A. McBain, millman, formerly of the Julian country. From Cedar Crest the guests were escorted to the Wallace Palomar mountain camp site, with the attractive home and observatory of Dr. Mason Presley, a retired physician of La Jolla, on Wallace Point, as the first objective. A basket picnic supper was served by the people of the Wallace camp at the site of the community clubhouse, overlooking the San Luis Rey valley and the country to the south and west as far as San Diego and Oceanside, as well as to the Cuyamaca, Julian and Warner ranch country to the south and east.

By this time the sun had gone down and the moon had come up and it was then that the huge bonfire was kindled as the opening unit of the community campfire. Dr. Presley acted as master of ceremonies. The welcome to Palomar was extended by J. H. Heath, secretary of the Palomar Mountain Good Roads association, and the welcome to the Wallace camp site by Reid Wallace, who is closing his third year of pioneer work in the development of the mountain. Several readings in negro dialect were given by Mrs. Scott Perke, a daughter of Mr. Wallace, and there was community singing. Brief remarks were made by [various officials], the campfire closing with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," adjournment being to Bailey Palomar Lodge, where dancing was indulged in at the new open air pavilion until midnight. The guests were taken care of at the three resorts, Bailey's Palomar Lodge, Wallace camp site and the National Forest Club and Resort, Lee Tucker, lessee and manager …

Trees

that are trees

Trees

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree;

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
Who intimately lives with rain;

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

—Joyce Kilmer.

A small payment down and the balance on easy terms secures you a magnificent cabinsite at Cedar Crest, "The Pride of Palomar," with water on every site, and in addition, if you wish, we will finance your cabin, for which 100,000 feet of lumber, logged on the tract, are already available.

By all means see at once this inspiring, utterly different, mountain playground. Bring your lunch and picnic at cool Cedar Crest with its giant trees and running streams. Start early and make the round trip in one day.

HOW TO REACH CEDAR CREST

From San Diego via La Mesa, Ramona, Santa Ysabel, Lake Henshaw, over the new Palomar grade—75 miles. From San Diego via Escondido, Valley Center and Rincon—70 miles. The completion of the new Ramona pavement, and the cutting of a new four-mile road near Cedar Crest will mean paved highway half way to the tract, and the balance a fine dirt road, which will reduce traveling time to Cedar Crest to well under three hours. In the meantime, the quickest and easiest way to Cedar Crest is by La Mesa, Ramona and Lake Henshaw.

If you have no car and wish to see Palomar Mountain, or if you wish to reserve a Cedar Crest cabinsite without leaving San Diego, call at the office of Dr. Milton Bailey, Spreckels Bldg., San Diego. Telephone 819-37.

CEDAR CREST

on Palomar, the wonder mountain

San Diego Union, August 10, 1924, page 40, column 1

An April 1925 news story on the “Wallace tract” on Palomar Mountain included this statement [77]:

> The community clubhouse, erected last August, is a frame building, 30x60 feet, with a 10-foot verandah on the south side, overlooking the San Luis Rey valley, the ocean and the country between the ocean and the mountain.

On April 13, 1925, the San Diego Union reported on Palomar Mountain news including [77]:

> That the 400 people owning the community clubhouse on the Wallace tract, most of whom have plans for the erection of cabins, will do their bit in making the mountain slogan “Nothing to mar Palomar” ring true, was shown at an enthusiastic meeting of the officers and directors in San Diego yesterday. At this meeting Judge Stickney reported excellent progress in the formation of the Palomar Mountain Mutual Water company, which is to supply water to the lot owners on the co-operative plan. The water will be pumped from springs on the north slope of the mountain and stored in a reservoir near Pressly’s point, from which it will be distributed by gravity flow to all parts of the 200-acre tract. … Officers of the Palomar Mountain club are: President, Reid Wallace; vice president, Mrs. Mary Richmond Pressly; secretary, J.L. Stickney; treasurer, S.S. Purkey. Mrs. Samuel Norcross is chairman of the entertainment committee. J.H. Heath is chairman of the publicity committee, the other members so far named being Dr. Mason W. Pressly, William Wallace and Walter E. Averrett.

The Oceanside Blade published this on April 23, 1925 [35]:

> PALOMAR WATER PLANT PLANNED
>
> The Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company, a non-profit and co-operation association of property owners, is being formed to supply water to the cabin sites of the Wallace tract, on which is located the Palomar Mountain club house. The club house is a community affair, controlled by several hundred stockholders. From the north slope of the mountain the water will be lifted to a

> reservoir now in process of construction near Pressly Point, at the east end of the Wallace tract. The water will be distributed by gravity to all parts of the tract at the actual cost of operation. The organization of the company will insure a plentiful supply of water for domestic and fire protection purposes, it is said. ..

Marion Beckler writes … [1]

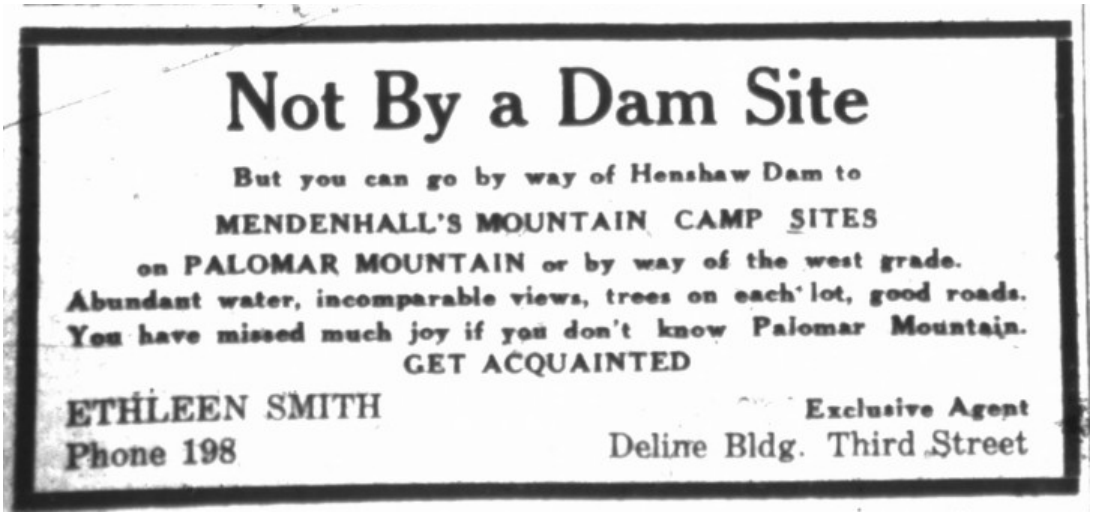
> Pedley gave land for a well and Ralph Tillinghast, resident of the area, contracted to dig the well. William R. Wallace built the reservoir. Jefferson Stickney, lawyer, incorporated the Water Company.

The Palomar Mountain Mutual Water Company … [11]

> "…was incorporated in 1925 as a California non-profit, mutual benefit corporation to serve as a water company for its shareholders … Initially, shares in the company were traded for land deeded to the company for wells and storage tanks, used as payment for work done for the company, and sold to campsite owners. … not all existing campsite owners chose to purchase shares. The shares that were traded for land or work were then given to purchasers of campsites carved from tracts owned by those holding these shares. By California law, shares in such a corporation are tied to specific parcels of land. As the parcels are sold, the share always goes to the new owner; it is never retained by the previous owner…. So the original use as campsites, the choices of campsite owners to purchase shares, and the vagaries of combining parcels over the years has resulted in a rather unpredictable distribution of shares over a rather wild assortment of parcel arrangements. … Originally water was only provided from June 1 to October 1 since that is when camping was done. Shareholders were billed by whether they had a faucet, a toilet, or a shower. ..."

Dick Mendenhall wrote about the Campsites … [5]

> 1924 to 1926 were boom years. Lots of lots were sold, cabins built, work for everyone, a party every night, dances twice a week at the Club House or at Baileys. By this time the road was finished up the East End and cars could come up fairly easily.


Not By a Dam Site
But you can go by way of Henshaw Dam to
MENDENHALL'S MOUNTAIN CAMP SITES
on PALOMAR MOUNTAIN or by way of the west grade.
Abundant water, incomparable views, trees on each lot, good roads.
You have missed much joy if you don't know Palomar Mountain.
GET ACQUAINTED
ETHLEEN SMITH
Exclusive Agent
Phone 198
Deline Bldg. Third Street

Oceanside Blade, May 20, 1926, page 4, column 1

The Oceanside Blade published this on June 25, 1925 [36]:

> ENJOY WEEK END ON PALOMAR
>
> A party composed of the families of Mr. and Mrs. C.G. Rieke, Mr. and Mrs. M. Littlefield, Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Spencer and Miss Jane Allen camped over the week end on Palomar mountain. The mountain is very beautiful at this time, the hillsides being covered with a dense carpet of blue lupin, and other spring flowers, while in the canyons by the sides of the small streams are fragrant thickets of azalea, now in the height of its glory. The roads are in excellent shape for motoring and many from San Diego and other places in Southern California as well are spending week ends at the Bailey resort and other places on the mountain, where they may have camp sites of their own. Several places on the mountain tracts of land are being put up and prepared for cabin sites, the latest of these being at Cedar Crest at the east end. Here a forty acre tract is being subdivided for sale by Bailey & Kennedy and several cabins were in process of building and others in prospect.

Correspondence of May 27, 1926 to Carl Mendenhall from a San Diego realty company, The John W. Snyder Company, detailed Campsites lot prices on Mendenhall's land [64]:

Numbers and Prices on Carl Mendenhall's
Cabin Sites with Road Already Built
Prices Subject to Change

Terms - 10% discount for cash
On contract - 20% down & 10% per month
Roads built and water piped to each site by
Carl Mendenhall

1 - sold	50 250	104 - 250	134 -
2 - 350	51 - 250	105 - 250	135 - 350
3 - 350	48 - 300	108 -	136 - 350
4 - 350	52 - 300	110 - 400	139 - 400
5 - 350	53 - 250	109 - 500	140 - 250
6 - 350	56 - 350	111 - 400	143 - 300
7 - sold	57 - 250	112 - 250	144 - 500
15 - 400	77 -	116 - 450	145 - 250
16 - 400	78 -	115 - 250	146 - 250
19 - 300	82 - 400	117 - 300	147 - 250
24 - 300	71 - 300	118 - 250	46 -
25 - 300	65 - 500	121 - 300	60 -
30 - sold	66 - 500	124 - 350	61 - 300
32 - 250	69 - 500	122 -	62 - 350
33 - 500	89 - 400	123 - 500	63 - 350
34 - 350	87 - 400	125 - 300	64 - 350
35 - 300	86 - 400	127 - 350	65 - 350
42 - 250	100 - 500	126 - 250	66 - 350
41 - 250	101 - 350	129 - 300	67 - 350
43 - 500	99 - 350	128 - 250	
41 - 250	98 - 300	131 - 250	
49 - 350	102 - 250	130 - 300	
	103 - 250	133 - 300	
	97 - 300	132 - 250	

Edgewood Tavern

In July 1927, the San Diego Evening Tribune reported on Palomar news [20]:

> Permanent residents of Palomar campsite will assemble for a mass meeting at the community clubhouse Sunday … The clubhouse has been leased for ten years to F. W. Shupe, and will continue to be used as a community gathering place. Shupe has renamed it Edgewood Tavern, and has added a dining hall and kitchen. …

Lydia Rosella "Rose" Gibbons, undated

Frank Willard Shupe (1869-1939) and his wife Lydia Rosella "Rose" Gibbons Shupe (1874-1945) owned a ranch in Murrieta [22].

Marion Beckler writes … [1]

> ... the Clubhouse had fallen into disrepair. Mrs. Tillinghast says, "You could see outdoors through the chinks in the walls." Then heavy winter snow broke down the roof. Mr. and Mrs. … Shupe of Murrieta leased the building, the incorporated treasury was drained for repairs, a kitchen and lunch room were added. The Clubhouse became "Edgewood Tavern."

In July 1927, the San Diego Union ran a speculation from a Lee Wallace, probably Reid Wallace, about an airport at Palomar Campsites [21]:

> LEE WALLACE
> (Pioneer, Palomar Camp Site)
>
> "This is no joke about having an airplane landing field on Palomar Mountain. I've had builders of planes and fliers of planes up there to look at the proposed airport on the Palomar camp site, opposite our community clubhouse, now known as Edgewood Tavern, and they all say it's fine. Three years ago, when Jim Heath of Escondido engineered an educational motor excursion of county officials to Palomar, Ada York, county superintendent of schools, made a speech from the floor of the then unfinished community clubhouse in which she declared that in the near future she might fly instead of motor to Palomar in her rounds of school visitations, and I'm telling you that I believe she'll be able to make good, for just as soon as we get a few more year-round settlers a school will be established. Meanwhile the art of flying is being developed."

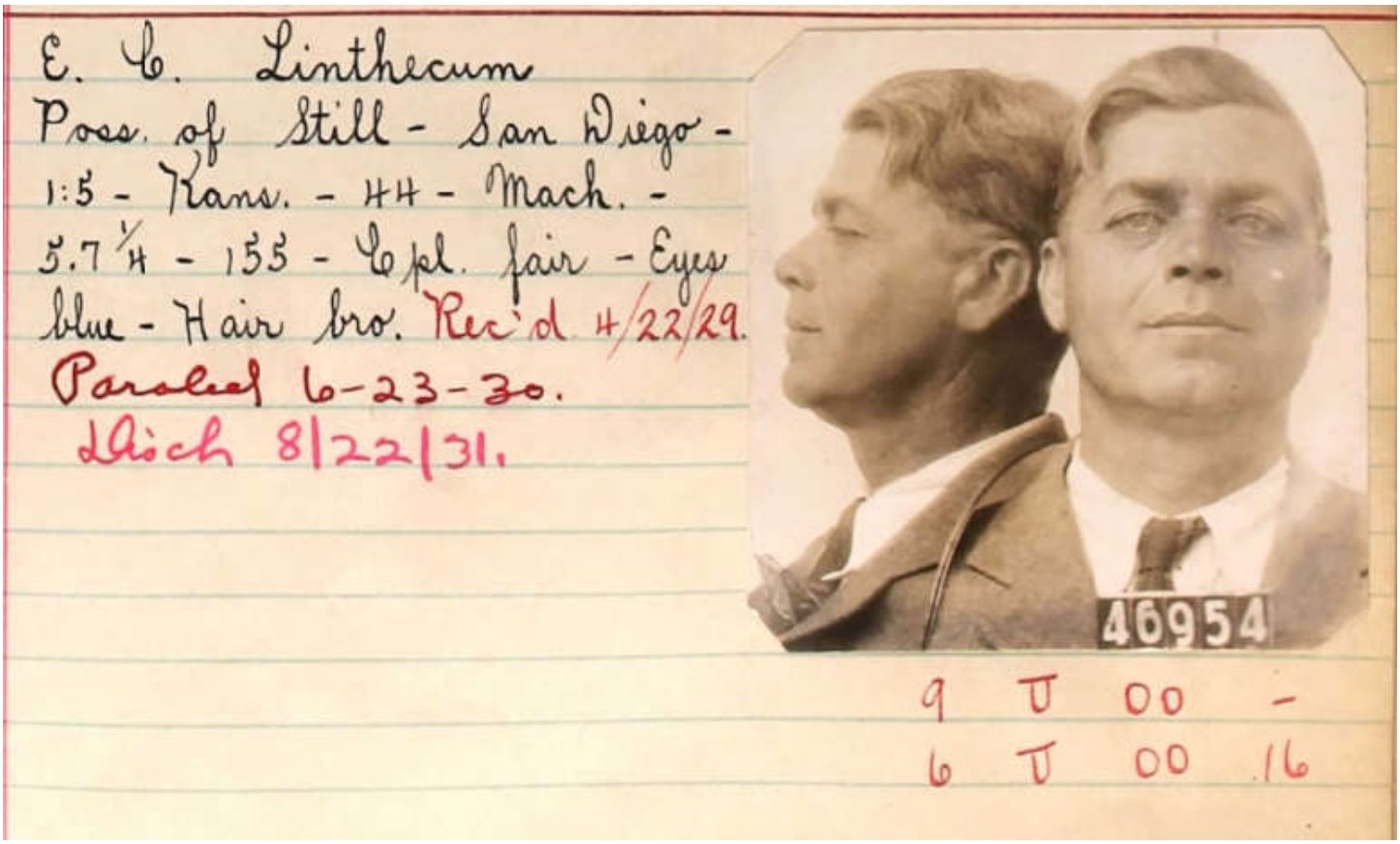
In January 1928, the San Diego Union reported on a "white blanket" snowfall on Palomar Mountain, including mention of "Camp Clyde" which is assumed to be associated with Everett Clyde Linthicum, and may be the Clubhouse [72]:

> Gasoline, oil and food are always obtainable at Camp Clyde, near the top of the mountain, so that no matter what the weather, motorists need not hesitate to visit this most interesting mountain region in the county.

In June 1928, the Escondido Daily Times-Advocate ran a story on the formation of the Palomar Development association [65]:

> WORK TOGETHER AT PALOMAR MT.
>
> DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION IS FORMED AND PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARDS SECURING TELEPHONE LINE

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN, June 4, (Special). – On Sunday there was a well attended meeting of the property owners on Palomar mountain at Camp site, a subdivision of this beautiful mountain. The object of the meeting was to form the Palomar Development association and to advance the building of a telephone line to Lake Henshaw, and so secure rapid connection with Ramona. A.A. Bishop was elected president of the Palomar Development association and Dr. Milton Bailey, secretary-treasurer. The other directors are W.R. Wallace of San Diego, K.E. Petersen of Escondido, R.W. Tillinghast, Carl Mendenhall and Louis Salmons of Palomar mountain. The telephone situation was given thorough consideration. A gang of surveyors are now surveying the line, and as a beginning, $500 was subscribed to push the matters. The following committees were appointed by President Bishop: Telephone finance – C.R. Rauch, National City; Mrs. M.C. Balmer, La Jolla, Mrs. H.S. Darlington, Mrs. Marian DeC. Norcross, La Jolla; Miss Catharine Wood, San Diego; Frank Reynolds, Escondido; A. McKeehan, Oceanside. Telephone right of way –W.R. Wallace, Ed. Fletcher and Dr. Milton Bailey, San Diego; Carl Mendenhall and Louis Salmons, Palomar mountain. Following an important water meeting on Saturday evening, a general dance of all citizens of Palomar mountain and their valley friends will be held in the club house at Camp Site.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In April 1929, Everett Clyde Linthicum was sentenced to San Quentin Prison for possessing a still; he was paroled from prison in June 1930 and discharged in August 1931 [73].

The Great Depression had started in September 1929. Anthony Swanson, granddaughter of Reid Wallace, said [71]:

> When the depression hit in 1929 (Reid Wallace) could no longer afford to pay the taxes on the land—he had to let go of some of it.

Ocean View Camp and Store

Thomas Hill Boland, c1916

Catharine Wood writes: "Two stores were put into operation, one at the top of the (Birch) hill, and Ocean View store at the junction [3]."

The Ocean View store was at the junction of Crestline Road and East Grade and was run by Thomas Sheridan Boland (1861 – 1936) followed by his nephew Captain Thomas Hill Boland, a retired U.S. Army aviator (1883 – 1938) [84,85]. Thomas Sheridan Boland pre-deceased his nephew Boland in 1936 and had been living at Palomar for ten years at the time of his 1936 death [88].

The first Ocean-View Camp store and gas station, which was replaced by a new building in 1936 [3]

The sign at the first Ocean-View Camp offered gas, oil, cabins to rent, store and lunch, and free parking. Thomas S. Boland is listed as a retail grocer alongside other Palomar Mountain residents in the 1930 U.S. Census.

The Ocean View Resort first appears in 1931 in the San Diego (California) City Directory …. and all other towns and postoffices throughout the county (San Diego Directory Co., 1931), with Thomas A. Boland listed as manager. The middle initial "A" never changes in these annual directories through 1938, though nephew took over the store from uncle in 1936. The 1932 Index to Great Register of San Diego County California lists Thomas S. Boland as a grocer on Palomar Mountain. A 1932 San Diego Evening Tribune article on U.S. Forest Service campgrounds in Palomar and other districts mentions the Oceanview resort [82].

In 1931, Mrs. Frank Shupe wrote a letter to a newspaper editor about putting up an ice house at the Edgewood Tavern [23]:

> PUTTING UP ICE ON PALOMAR MOUNTAIN
>
> Editor, Press: I promised you I would send you a letter when we were putting up ice on Palomar mountain. It has been storming some since last Saturday. Fog, some days rain, and then ice and snow. Can see the mountain all around white with snow. Have about one foot of snow on level, very heavy and drifting very little. … We have our snow house built with double walls, packed between with sawdust. We pack the snow and ice in, tamp down and let freeze over night; then put in more snow and ice and continue until house is packed full; then cover all the snow with sawdust to keep air out from top. Put roof on building in sections so can remove easy. This will keep all summer, and do not have to shred ice for use in water or home-made ice cream. …

The ice house was located before one arrived at the Edgewood Tavern [30].

In 1931, a San Diego Union newspaper item reported on San Diego County improving the "Wallace park" area in the Palomar campsite district [24]:

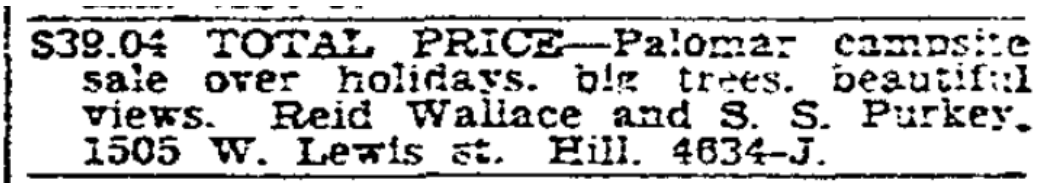
> The park was given to the county by the developers of the camp sites about 10 years ago and for the first time an effort is being made by county officials to improve it. A road is being built,

> undergrowth is being removed and picnic ground conveniences are being erected.

Anthony Swanson, granddaughter of Reid Wallace, said [71]:

> … the County Park, ... had been given to the county by my grandfather in lieu of taxes.

In 1932, Campsite lots continued to be for sale [25]:


$39.04 TOTAL PRICE—Palomar campsite sale over holidays. big trees. beautiful views. Reid Wallace and S. S. Purkey. 1505 W. Lewis st. Hill. 4634-J.

The name Crestline for the area first appears in 1932 in a San Diego Evening Tribune article on U.S. Forest Service campgrounds in Palomar and other districts [82].

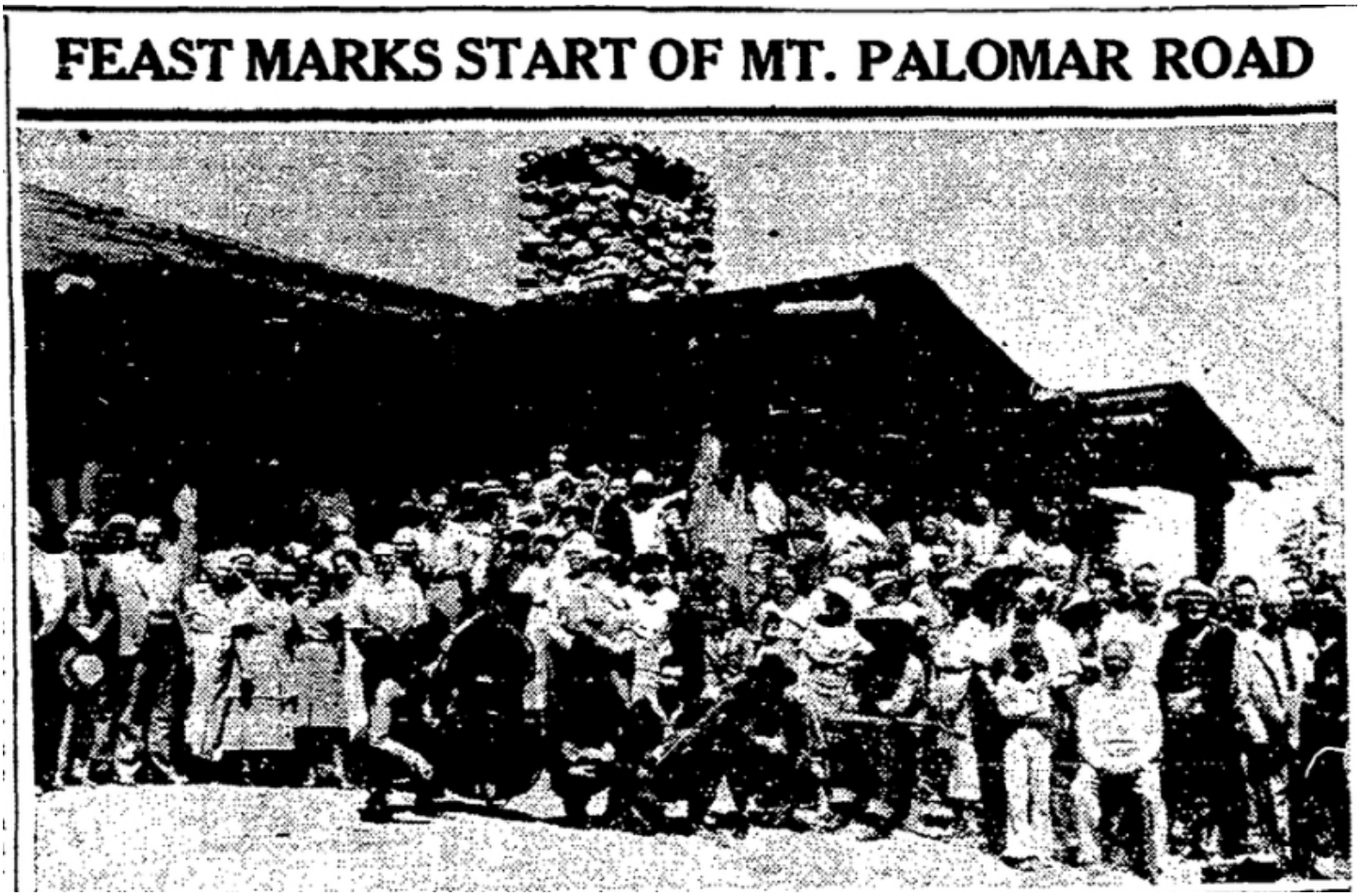
Marion Beckler writes [40]:

> The summer of 1934 started out prosperously, with most of the cabins occupied. Bert Bishop ran a store and lunch-room, and the Club was under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shupe, who had added an excellent dining room. Then, in July, came the great fire, wiping out many of the cabins and driving the vacationers from the mountain.

Starting in July 1935 through 1937, the Edgewood Tavern was leased as camp headquarters for a Work Progress Administration construction crew building a road to the Observatory [26,28,31,60].

In an August 1935 San Diego Evening Tribune article, the start of construction for the new road to the Palomar observatory was celebrated in a gathering at the Clubhouse, which was referred to as “the new county road station near Crestline” [83]. Crestline itself was referred to as ‘the point where the south slope grade project, rising from San Luis Rey river valley at Mendenhall ranch house, will connect with the topmost link, which has been surveyed to lead to the most direct route by way of Iron Springs creek to the side chosen by the observatory council of California

Institute of Technology for the project world's largest astrophysical observatory. [83]."



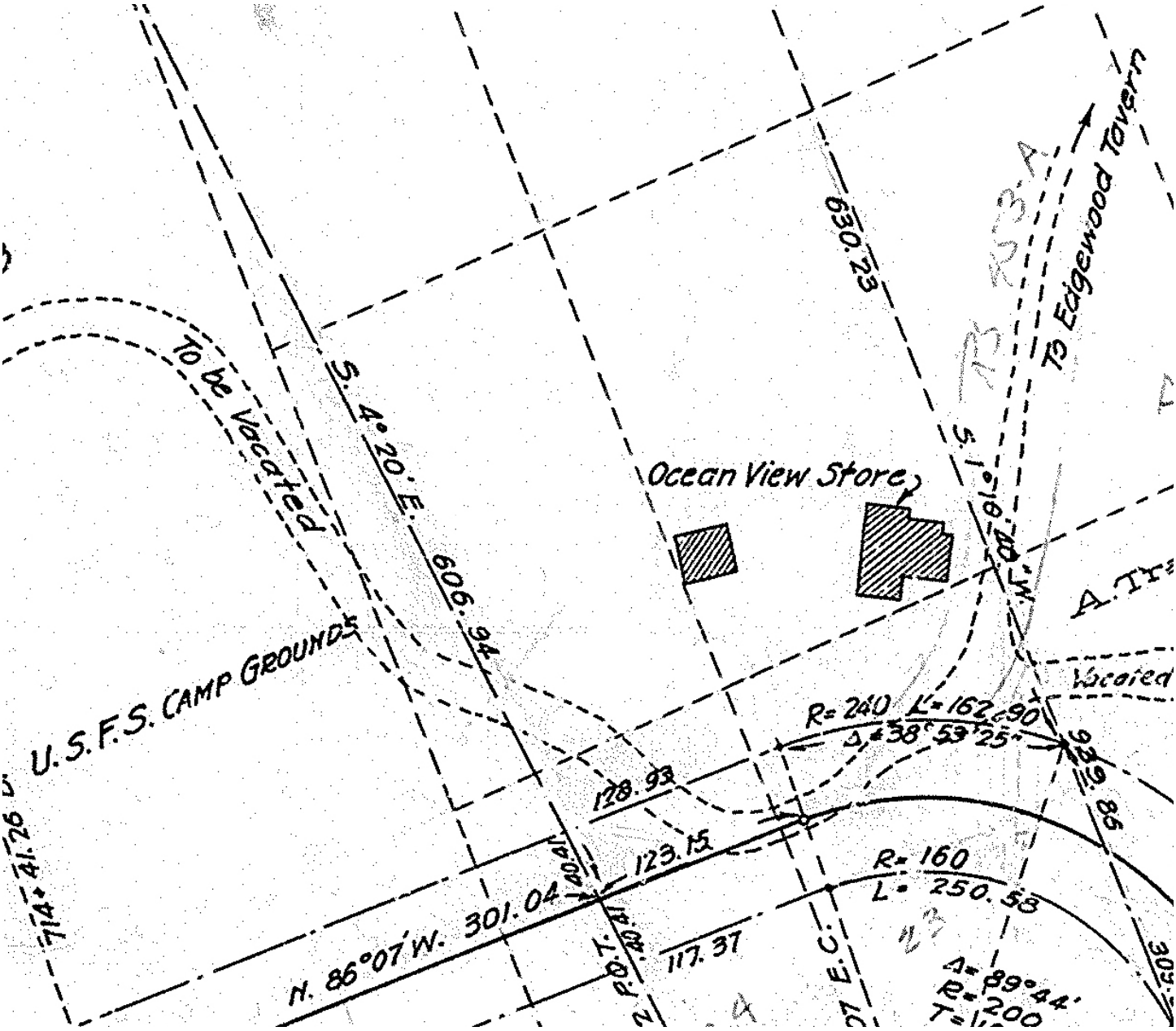
Clubhouse in August 1935 San Diego Evening Tribune article [83].

The Edgewood Tavern was described in a column in the Escondido Daily Times-Advocate of March 20, 1937 [60]:

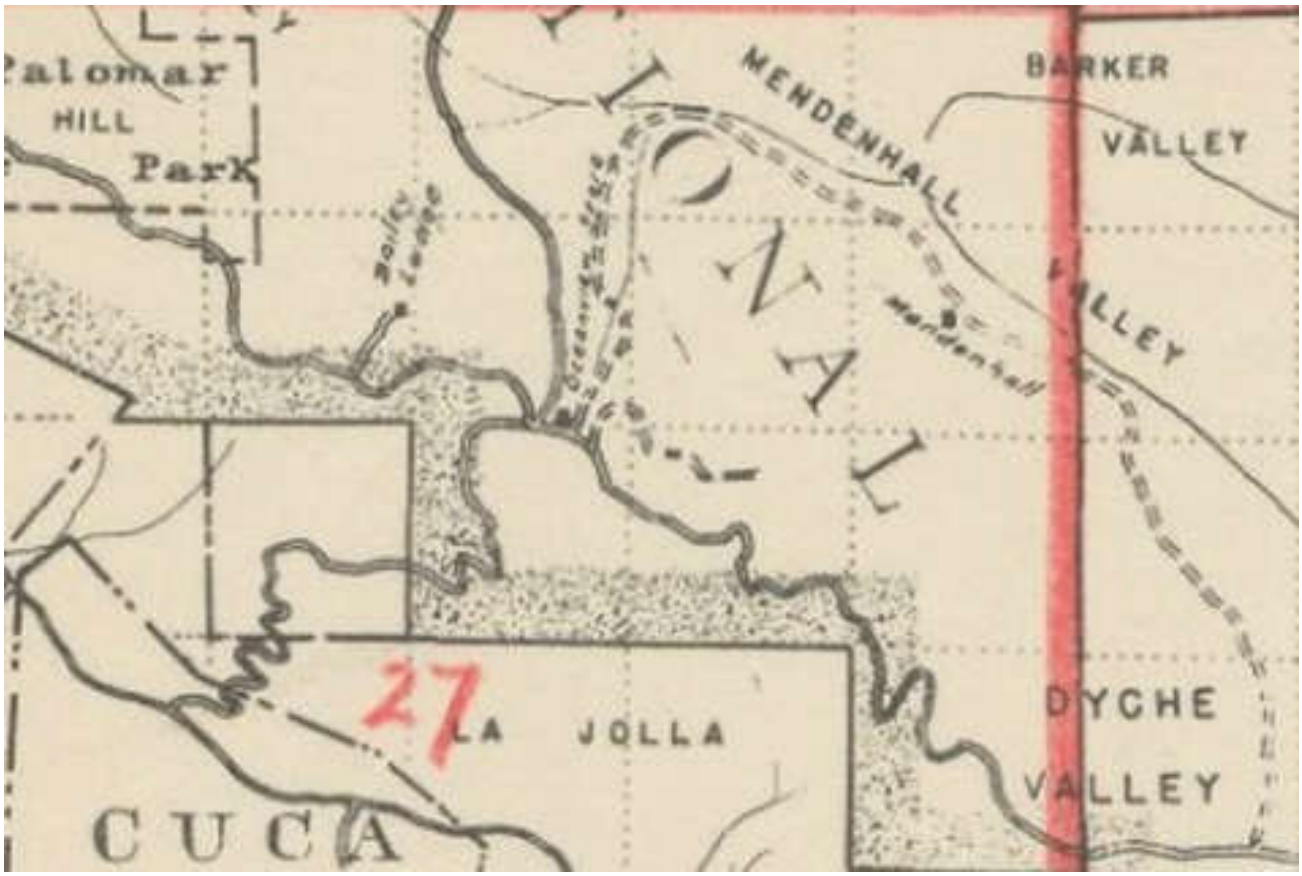
> … A little further up the road is Edgewood Tavern. This at present is the camp of the Palomar road station and the W.P.A. workmen that stay there while they are at work. Prior to this use, this tavern belonged to some of the elite of this county. It was a club camp. Inside is a big open fireplace, big camp chairs, tables, a kitchen, dining room and almost all the conveniences of the lowlands, for there is electricity furnished by its own plant and toilets, showers and a big porch from which on clear days we can see Point Loma and distinguish ships in San Diego harbor. We can see Escondido, Ramona, and even some of the highest buildings in San Diego. …

The second Ocean View Store was described in a column in the Escondido Daily Times-Advocate of March 20, 1937 [86]:

> … Right here in front of us is a big, red building. It's new, too, being completed just before the winter set in. The sign says Ocean View Store. It is owned and operated by Capt. Boland. Inside we find that we can buy 'most anything we can get in town and for practically the same prices, beer, wine meals, for there is a café in here; groceries, notions and we can rent a room, for it has a second story that accommodates several bedrooms. This is also a prominent gathering place for some of the families that live on Crestline. There are electricity and modern rest rooms here also. …



The location of the Ocean View store just above the intersection of East Grade and Crestline Road (middle right), shown in a section of the May 1937 map entitled “San Diego County, California, Road Survey Number 717” [98].



Crop from 1938 California Division of Forestry Map showing Oceanview Store; the Birch Hill road is unpaved

Captain Thomas Boland died in 1938, and newspaper death notices said he retired from the U.S. Army Air Corps about 1935 and came directly to Palomar, establishing the store; however his uncle had previously established it [87,90].

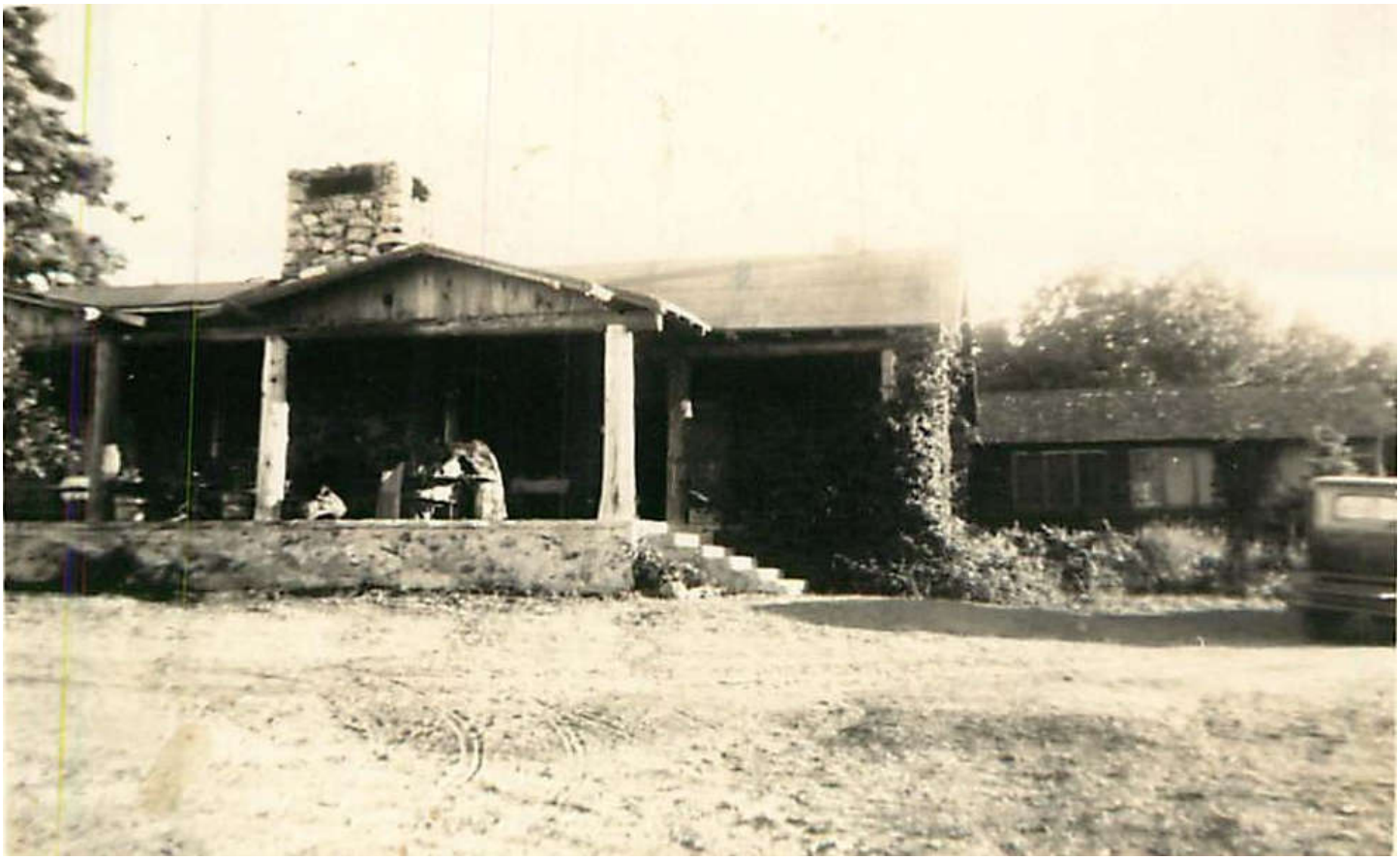
In December 1938, Captain Thomas Boland's nephew William Hill Evans (1913 – 1987), the administrator of his estate, published a notice of intention to sell alcoholic beverages at the Ocean View Camp [89]. In June 1939, the California State Board of Equalization informed the San Diego County Board of Supervisors that it had no objection to issuing a license to sell beer and wine to George L. Pinnell, of the Ocean View Camp on Palomar Mountain [90]. George Leonard Pinnell's occupation in the 1940 U.S. Census was filing clerk for an advertising business. On August 18. 1939, the Escondido Times-Advocate noted that the Captain Boland store on Palomar Mountain was now under the management of Ralph Tillinghast, and he was in in Escondido stocking up for his store [101]. The second Ocean View store ("big, red building") was built by Ralph Tillinghast, who took it over in 1939 when Boland's construction debt to him couldn't be paid [30,101]. Ralph Tillinghast and his wife Alice moved there and operated the grocery store and gasoline filling station, selling fresh meat and employing a butcher [30].

On July 8, 1940, the San Diego Tribune-Sun reported [74]:

> Names Palomar Man In Attack Threat
>
> On complaint of **Everett Linthicum**, who told deputy district attorneys he had been threatened, Albert A. Bishop, of Palomar, today was charged in a felony complaint with assault with a deadly weapon. Linthicum, who is employed at the Palomar clubhouse, Palomar mountain, told officers that Bishop, armed with a knife, had threatened "to cut your head off if you don't pay me." Bishop, it was said, claimed the complaining witness owed him money and had come to collect it. Warrant with bail fixed at $500, was issued in municipal court, and deputy sheriffs set out to arrest Bishop.

On July 16, 1940, the San Diego Tribune-Sun reported [75]:

> Charges Reduced To Simple Assault
>
> Charges of assault with a deadly weapon which originally were lodged against Albert Bishop, about 60, after he assertedly had menaced Everett Linthicum at Palomar with a huge knife, today were reduced to simple assault by Municipal Judge Phil Smith on motion of the district attorney. Linthicum stated Bishop had threatened to "cut your head off" with the bolo knife during an argument over money received in a mutual enterprise. The judge gave Bishop a six months' suspended jail sentence.



Palomar Club-House, 1941 Sue Linthicum Lo Coco photo

Palomar Club-House, 1943 – 1944
Note CLUB-HOUSE sign over side entrance
Sue Linthicum Lo Coco photo

Palomar Club-House, undated

Sue Linthicum Lo Coco photo

Everett's daughter-in-law Wanda Fay Miller Linthicum standing in Palomar Club-House's side entrance. Undated; she married his son William in March 1942. Note CLUB-HOUSE sign overhead

Sue Linthicum Lo Coco photo

Everett Clyde Linthicum died August 3, 1955, and for some years, had been operating a ship/barge salvage business and surplus store on Bay Boulevard in San Diego [76].

In January 1942, the Tillinghast store was mentioned in a newspaper article on road work [91].

[30]

Crestline Store ("big, red building" Oceanview Store), October 1945 Peter Brueggeman photo

Ralph Tillinghast sold the Oceanview Store after World War Two to a family named Miller, after which it burned to the ground a few weeks later [30]. Ralph Tillinghast redeemed the land from the Millers and was going to build a new store but died in 1948 before doing so [30].

Marion Beckler writes [40]:

> And then came the years of the war, when no one was vacationing in the mountains. The old Club House became a forlorn sight, with its roof caving in.

Skyline View Ranch

In 1947, Mr. and Mrs. Art and Mildred Koenig of La Mesa bought the abandoned Clubhouse, made major and minor repairs, enlarging the kitchen, improved the guest bedrooms, and opened the Skyline View Ranch Lodge to guests in 1948 [1,27,41].

Art and Mildred Koenig, circa 1972 [27]

Nona Litchfield interviewed Mildred Koenig, writing about her life and their purchase of the Camp Sites clubhouse on Palomar Mountain [27]:

> On a rare free day in 1947, they headed towards the mountains. At Santa Ysabel, they decided to go to Palomar rather than to Julian … a true cross-road in their lives. They wound their way up the East Grade, relishing the view. Once on top, they drove around; explored. On Crestline Drive, they saw a "For Sale" sign in the dirty window of an apparently abandoned building. Always curious, they stopped, got out and made their way through the weeds and brush up to the porch.
>
> Through the cobwebs they made out a large, wood-paneled high ceilinged room – piled full of junk and old furniture. It was being used as a store-room for second-hand furniture, and it was a mess. But not to Mildred. Her mind reeled with excitement! She saw it as the perfect place to house her lifetime hobbies. "Papa, what a perfect room for all of the Indian things, and the spinning wheels! We have to have it." Art too was enthusiastic and challenged. From a horseman's view point, the area was ideal for trail rides.
>
> They called the number on the sign, and learned the asking price for the run-down lodge. The next day, they went to their El Cajon bank to ask about a loan. Their request was politely, but firmly turned down. They then approached the bank with what seemed to them a good proposal. As collateral, they would pledge their trailer park and all of the property at Magnolia and Van Houten. Again, a firm refusal. Naturally, this made them want it more than ever! With no hesitation, they decided to sell the Trailer Park and buy Skyline Lodge.
>
> Less motivated buyers would have experienced painful buyers' remorse, wondering what they had done in a moment of madness. But not Mildred and Art. Even when they took possession, and found most of the windows broken – allowing bats to fly freely in and out. The kitchen was a tragedy – a scene of old broken sinks and a has-been stove. The mouse population was of record proportions – with generations of uninterrupted tenancy. Where to begin?

They fixed an area they could “camp” in, and got down to basics. With no electricity on the mountain, the only power source was an “iffy” generator. As they both liked lots of milk, but had no place to store it, they decided to get a cow. “We named her Minnie-Lou, and shared whatever Minnie Lou juice we couldn’t drink.” Thus fortified, they called in a Health Inspector to advise them before any major repairs were begun; they set an appointment. The inspector came. Making his way from one disaster area to the next didn’t take long. Nor did his appraisal. “It can’t be done. It is impossible.”

Undaunted, Mildred felt they should discuss it further. She offered him sone “Minnie-Lou juice – nice and cold.” “No thanks, Ma’am, I don’t drink on the job.” She brought it anyway, along with a fresh apple turnover. From then on, “He was on our side.”

They went at it, first things first. Stripped completely, the kitchen was enlarged. They installed a new commercial range, new sinks and counters, and ice boxes which handled 300 pounds of ice. Next came the guest room wing, with indoor bathrooms, showers, and new hot water heaters. They replaced windows, fixed the roof, re-did the floors. When all the major jobs were done, they again called the Health Inspector.

Everything passed muster! Joyfully they all celebrated with another apple turnover and more “Minnie Lou.” Now they could really get to work. With the Health Department hurdle crossed, there remained less formidable, but no less important hurdles. These would be Mildred’s job, as Art resumed his landscaping work during the week, coming up on weekends to bring supplies and to pitch in.

Before they could have guests, they had to have furniture. Mildred went to Benbough’s, then San Diego’s most reliable and best known furniture store. If they didn’t have what a customer wanted, they’d get it. Mildred wanted sturdy rustic tables and chairs for the great room. She needed ten square tables, and forty chairs. And she needed a long tavern table for large group seating. Benbough’s ordered it through a firm in Indiana which filled such special

orders as this. When delivered, they were just as she had visualized. Strong hickory chairs with brass flanges – chairs a body could lean back in and no harm done. The well made oak-topped tables weren't skimpy. They were tables good for leaning on while sitting around in front of the fireplace for an after dinner talk. Benbough's also supplied all the guest room furniture, as well as the sturdy Bates' bedspreads and matching drapes, which are still there in the rooms.

While waiting for the delivery of the furniture, Mildred unpacked her treasures, planning where to put each piece. The small spinning wheel along with Indian baskets and pottery were perfect on the heavy mantle. On either side of the fireplace went two of the large spinning wheels, with the fourth and largest in a far corner. Across the face of the fireplace, she hung her large cast iron skillets. On the floor, directly in front of the fireplace went the bearskin rug. One of her newly made young friends, Joy (Brownell) Welsh, loved the Indian things. She came often to help Mildred hang the baskets and Navajo rugs on the walls. Finally, with the Hopi Kachina dolls on a shelf, the double ox-box yoke hanging from a beam, the churns, old lamps and whale rib bone in place, it looked as she had dreamed it could, two long hard-working years before, when she first saw it.

Art too realized a dream. Having built his corral, he brought up his horses and two burros, Pala and Omar, for the children. He cleared brush and weeds from the property, planted shrubs and flowers; completing changing its run-down appearance. With the great trees as background, Skyline Lodge became an inviting destination. The lilacs he planted are there today beside the step, having brought fragrant joy for almost thirty five years.

The Lodge was ready, but they were nearly out of money. They still had to get business licenses. And they needed paying guests! With the licenses paid for, and little cash remaining, Mildred had an idea. Unable to afford advertising fees, but knowing they'd have to let the public know they were there, she decided to become the Palomar Mountain Weather Station! She bought rain gauges and recording thermometers, installed them, and stared calling in a daily report on the mountain weather …. directly from Skyline Lodge. In a short time, the weather reporter started volunteering information about the Lodge, along with temperatures and mountain conditions. "He gave us beautiful advertising for the cost of a phone call." She retained her role as weather reporter for years, always as a volunteer, and always on her dime.

After modestly stocking the larder with a ham, hamburger makings, apple turnover fixings and ice for the huge ice box, they had twenty five dollars left. Their first two guests, who had learned of the Lodge through the weather reports, were graciously received! An astronomer and his father came to stay for two nights. Simple, delicious food, hospitality, clear skies, along with the Lodge's rustic beauty, brought them back. They returned the next weekend with family, friends and telescopes. These they set up on the porch, enjoying a stunning view, with a great scope of sky and clear air. Often they chose to stay on the porch in sleeping bags, absorbing the view until falling asleep. "I wouldn't let them go out on the warm dirt at night though – too apt to meet a rattlesnake."

SKYLINE VIEW RANCH

Hotel and Dining Room

Invites you to Holiday atop Mount Palomar

Horse-back riding and Lovely Trail Rides.

In our dining room we are featuring Steaks and Fried Chicken. Night or Weekly Rates. Write for Res.

Skyline View Ranch, Palomar, California

Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, August 10, 1948, page 5, column 1

ABOVE THE CLOUDS
AT SKYLINE VIEW
RANCH
MT PALOMAR
CALIF.

February 18, 1949 postmark

The “toilet in a tree” was located before one arrived at the Skyline View Ranch [30].

Marion Beckler writes in March 1949 [40]:

> Arrangements are now in progress for the re-opening of the Skyline View Ranch Lodge. It is believed the opening will take place very soon. When the lodge was bought, two years ago, by Art Koenig of El Cajon, it had long been a familiar landmark. Built about 25 years ago, when the area, property of Carl Mendenhall, was subdivided into lots and organized into a community known as Camp Sites, it was a center of the mountain social life. People, walking from their cabins with lanterns for the lighting, spent the evenings dancing or visiting around the huge fireplace. …
> Mr. and Mrs. Koenig, who have already transformed the old building into a charming dining room, have only started in the carrying out of their plans. They will add cottages and a small trailer camp. Carl Vance expects to have charge of the saddle horses. The present temporary corrals will be moved some distance from the lodge. The concession will include horseback riding, hay-rides, pack burro trips, and, when the snow comes again, sleigh rides, Mrs. Koenig said.
>
> Carl Vance, a cousin of Ralph Edwards of "Truth or Consequences" has thrilled crowds many times in rodeos and at the San Diego County Fair, by his stunt riding. Recently at the jamboree given in Balboa Park, San Diego, for the Boy Scout benefit, he performed on the two famous pintos owned by Koenig. He trained the pintos on Koenig's El Cajon ranch, and rides them Roman style. Vance and his wife were visitors at the lodge Tuesday. …

Skyline View Ranch sign behind Claude Ganger at Palomar junction, c1949

Mary and Manny Doria photo

Closer view of signage in above photo

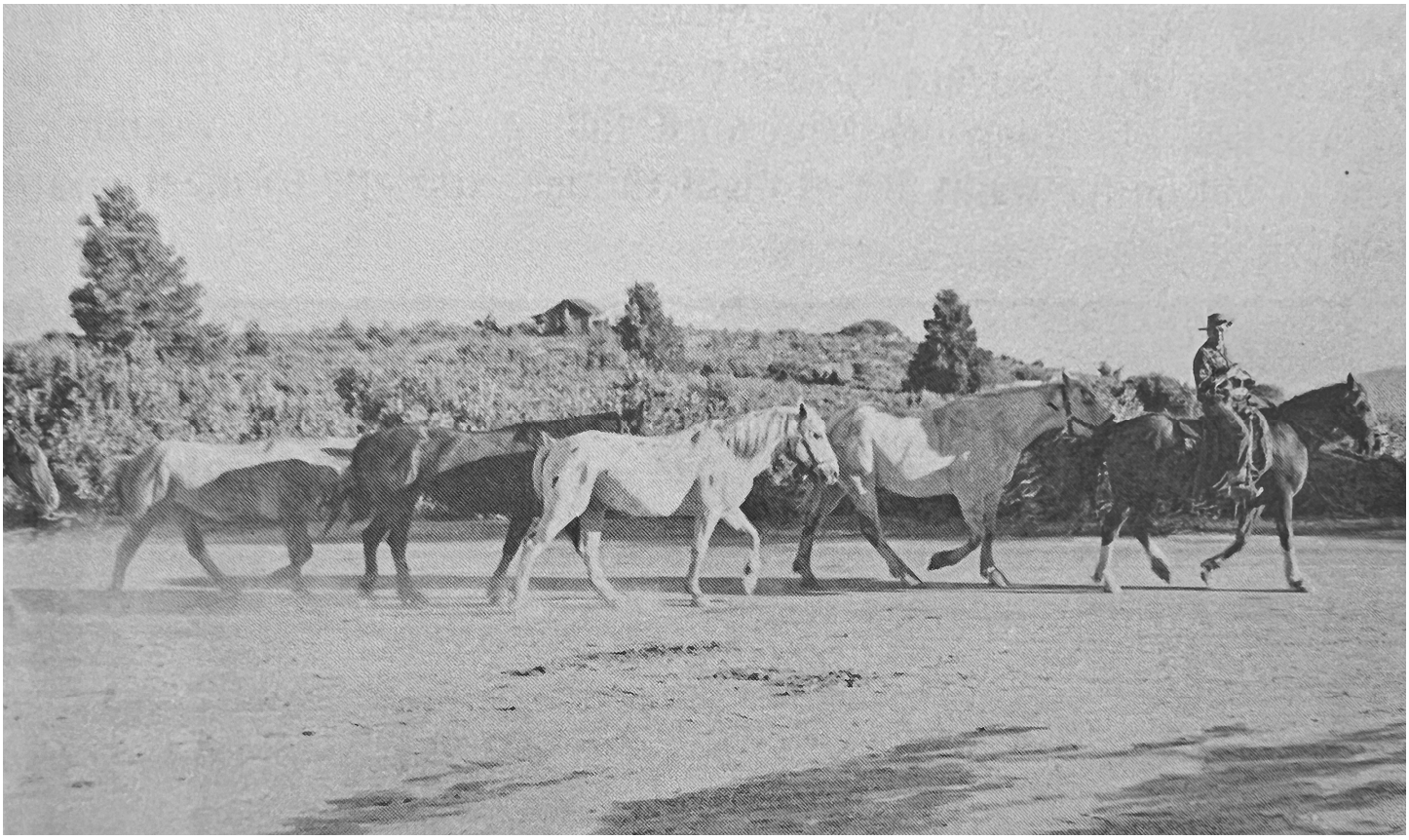
Dining Room Guest Rooms

Skyline View Ranch

Saddle Horses

T-Bone Steaks Fried Spring Chicken

Ad in the Palomar Mountain Stages' Palomar Observatory Tour brochure, late 1940s



Art Koenig leads his horses past the front of the lodge, undated [27]

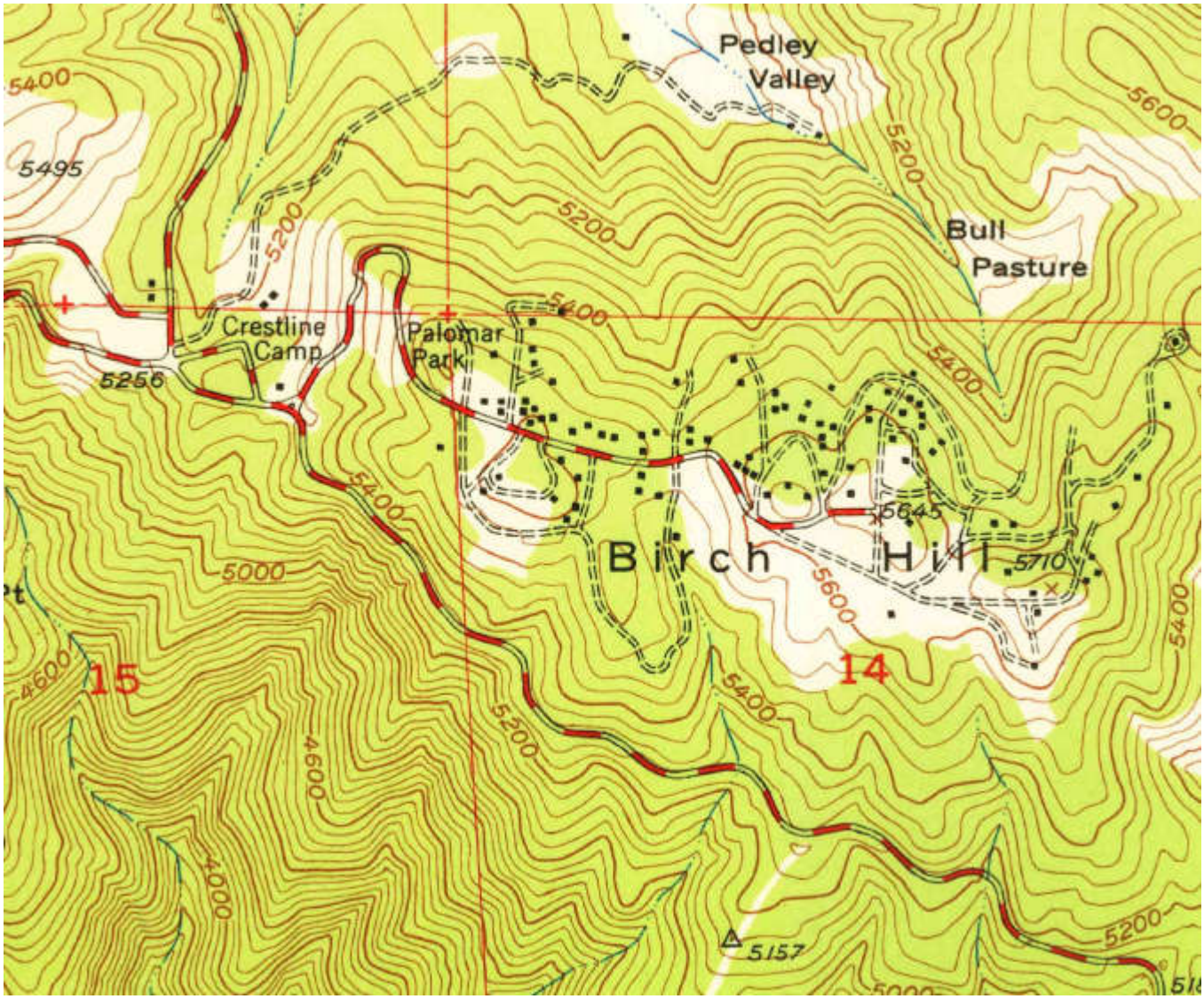
A June 1949 Escondido newspaper column on Palomar Mountain news said [42]:

> Skyline Lodge will open soon under the management of Bill Smith of La Mesa, who has leased the property from Mr. and Mrs. Art Koenig. Mrs. Koenig had planned to manage the lodge but Koenig's ill health has made it inadvisable. Mr. and Mrs. Smith and their daughters, Jean and Janna Lee, will move up this week. They plan to have the lodge and hotel open for business by the Fourth of July.

San Diego Union, July 23, 1949, page A9, column 5

An August 1949 Escondido newspaper column on Palomar Mountain news said [99]:

> Bill Smith of Skyline lodge, is east on a business trip. Mrs. Bea Smith is up from El Cajon to stay. They expect to keep the lodge open thru the winter. Mrs. Eva Mack, Mrs. Smith's mother, is staying up until school opens, when she will return to her home with Janna Lee, who will attend school at Grossmont. Recent guests at Skyline lodge include [list of names]. Mr. and Mrs. Art Koenig were up over the weekend.



Crop from 1949 USGS Palomar Observatory map showing Crestline Camp and Birch Hill

On October 19, 1949, the Daily Times-Advocate of Escondido published [100]:

> Mrs. Art Koenig and daughter, Miss Elaine Carter, of El Cajon, spent a few days in their Camp Site cottage. The Bill Smith's of Skyline Lodge entertained a dozen El Cajon friends at dinner Sunday.

A February 1950 Escondido newspaper column on Palomar Mountain news said [43]:

> Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith and daughter, Beverly, moved last week from Skyline lodge to their new home in El Cajon. They wish, however, to re-locate on the mountain in the near future.

A May 1950 Escondido newspaper column on Palomar Mountain news said [44]:

> Skyline lodge opened last weekend for the season. Mrs. Art Koenig and Miss Elaine Carter are managing the lodge, and will cater especially to weekend parties.

A July 1950 Escondido newspaper column on Palomar Mountain news said [45]:

> Skyline lodge is starting a grocery store.

Skyline Lodge letterhead

Over time, its name varied with Skyline Lodge, Skyline Ranch, Skyline View Ranch, or Skyline View Guest Ranch.

The Koenigs found the Edgewood Tavern sign down a canyon where children had slid on it in the snow [1].

Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, April 11, 1952, page 1, column 3

A July 1954 Escondido newspaper column on Palomar Mountain news said [46]:

> Skyline Lodge is to be opened Friday for the summer. Because of Mrs. Koenig's ill health it was not open last summer. Mr. and Mrs. Everett Brown of La Mesa and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kelley are busy this week preparing the lodge for business. They will manage it for Mrs. Koenig. Mrs. Koenig's health is somewhat improved.

1954 International Flying Saucer Forum

The Oceanside Daily Blade-Tribune published this on July 29, 1954 [37]:

> Flying Saucer Parley Aug. 7,8 At Mt. Palomar
>
> An International Flying Saucer Forum, sponsored by George Adamski and Desmond Leslie, will be held on Saturday and Sunday, August 7 and 8, at the Skyline Lodge on the east wing of Mt. Palomar. Many 'saucer" celebrities are expected to be present to join in the discussions. Leslie, British co-author with Adamski of the "Flying Saucers Have Landed," will reveal flying saucer activities throughout Europe. Leslie is in this country to work with Adamski on the manuscript of their forthcoming book, which will tell of recent contacts with the space-people and further developments in interplanetary space travel. There will be no admission fee and the general public is invited. Markers along the "Highway to the Stars" will direct motorists to the site of the Forum.

An August 3, 1954, article in the Corpus Christ Times (Texas) newspaper said [63]:

> Local Flying Saucer Fans to Attend Forum
>
> Three local flying saucer enthusiasts will leave tomorrow to attend the National Flying Saucer Forum at Mount Palomar, Calif. Members of the Corpus Christi Flying Saucer Research Society making the trip will be John McCoy, Darrel Kirkland and Jack Scholl. They will be accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Roy Jones, McCoy's brother-in-law and sister of Pharr, and Cash Asher, publicity director for Padre Island. The Corpus Christi group expects to be spotlighted at the conference because of its participation in the world's first contact attempt of any importance with flying saucers, McCoy said. A group of local teenagers recently set up flaming hieroglyphics on Padre Island in an effort to attract flying saucers. No contact was made. The national forum is being sponsored by George Adamski of Palomar Gardens, Calif., and Desmond Leslie of England, co-authors of "Flying Saucers

> Have Landed." About 1,000 scientists are expected to attend the meeting. The local group will tour the Mount Palomar Observatory in California. On the trip, the teenage boys plan to camp out and observe the night skies for saucers, McCoy said. …

An August 5, 1954, Escondido newspaper column said [47]:

> A "Flying Saucer" forum is scheduled for this weekend. Desmond Leslie and George Adamski are to give lectures, starting at 9 a.m. Saturday. Skyline Lodge is the place of meeting. Lodge reservations are sold out for the duration of the forum. It is expected that every available camping place on the mountain will be taken by more than a thousand "flying saucer" enthusiasts.

Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, undated

An August 6, 1954, Escondido newspaper story said [49]:

> Flying Saucer Forum Set for This Weekend
>
> An International Flying Saucer Forum, sponsored by George Adamski and Desmond Leslie, will be held Saturday and Sunday at Skyline Lodge, located on the east side of Mount Palomar. Many "saucer" celebrities are expected to be present to join in the discussions according to Adamski, and Desmond Leslie, British co-author with Adamski of the book "Flying Saucers Have Landed", will reveal for the first time flying saucer activities thruout Europe. Leslie is in this country to work with Adamski on the manuscript of their forthcoming book, which will tell of recent contacts with the space-people and further developments in Interplanetary space travel, Adamski reports.
>
> During the two days of the forum sessions, meals will be available to those attending the meeting at Skyline Lodge, altho those who wish may bring their own picnic lunches.
>
> There will be no admission fee and the general public is invited. Markers along the "Highway to the Stars" will direct motorists to the site of the Forum. Several thousand people are expected to attend the meeting, Adamski reports.

An August 12, 1954, Escondido newspaper column on Palomar Mountain news said [48]:

> Flying Saucers seem to have affected but briefly the demeanor of Palomar living. The crowds are estimated all the way from 800 to 2600 persons. We do know that sleeping quarters were at a premium: the Lodge, camps, cabins. People made room in their homes. In the Bill Kelley living room there were 17. Speeches were made and slides shown from the Skyline porch, and were heard at great distances thru the loud speaker. George Adamski spoke, and his collaborator from England, Leslie Desmond. Sterling Warren, just out from New York, was also present, and is staying over at Skylie Lodge. Tho a pretty large crowd to be handled on Camp Sites, it is reported to have been a quiet crowd –

no rowdyism, tho someone did overhear a rather fierce argument between a flying saucer believer and a non-believer … Distant moving lights were believed by some to be space ships; other believed them to be the lights of cars on the Ramona road.

People gathered at Skyline Lodge for the George Adamski event Ed Trudersheim photo

An August 6, 1954, Escondido newspaper news story by Victoria R. Speers said [50]:

Fifty Planes Awaited At Saucer Forum Fail to Make Appearance

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN -- It isn't every day that one gets the chance to attend a Flying Saucer convention. Feeling that it was a brave and daring thing for us to do, we left Escondido for here Saturday with our hearts beating fast and our breath coming in short pants.

I bitterly regretted that I had lacked the foresight to send in a cereal box-top and two bits for a pair of space binoculars, but as it turned out I didn't need them. No flying saucer showed (or placed) – and

it is still my opinion you don't have to be in your cups to see saucers, but it helps.

We got here bright and early, eager to be present at the morning's lectures, announced as starting at 9 a.m., but first thing we heard was that the opening of the program had been delayed until 2 p.m. Saturday.

Reason for the delay, we were told by an assistant of George Adamski, sponsor of the meeting, that 50 planes are being awaited. So we joined the crowd of 150 people who are waiting for (1) the 50 planes, and (2) the opening of the Forum.

It really looked as tho the middle west and Hollywood had certainly met in the large rustic lounge of Skyline Lodge. There were young and old people, chatting in groups about their common interest in flying Saucers.

The Flying Saucer book and photographs of Mr. Adamski and his space ship were for sale at a counter beside an almost life-size portrait of his Venusian saucer pal.

It was interesting to overhear comments of people who were somehow assured by looking at a picture. They'd say "That's just how I thought he'd look" and "Exactly the way I believed a space ship would be." The portrait was of an epicene figure wearing a brown ski suit with long flowing blond hair with a halo-ish light from behind. One arm was upraised pointing to the heavens with a saucer whirling in the right hand corner.

Desmond Leslie, co-author of the book with Adamski, as incognito, we were told by the assistant, but nevertheless we chatted briefly with him and learned that a new book now in preparation will deal with experiences inside a space ship.

Leslie explained that space is a "matter of mind." "If you can get your body frequency up, you can become invisible," he assured us. We tried, but couldn't quite do it. Maybe it was too hot in the bright sun beaming down – or should we say smiling down – on

us. And we're about 6,000 feet closer to it now than we are in Escondido.

Escondidans in the crowd included (several names)… Mrs. Darwin Ting accompanied the writer on this trip into the space atop Palomar Mountain. (That's why the word "we" is used in this dispatch.)

Registration of guests and boxes for contributions were provided for at two tables outside the Lodge. The contributions, it was said, are being taken up to build a laboratory for interspace study. A loud-speaker system was set up outside for the program Saturday afternoon.

Expressions of hope that another Flying Saucer Forum would be held here next year were heard at (as) the Sunday event drew to a close. Sponsors of the event – George Adamski of Palomar Gardens and Desmond Leslie of England – indicated they had hopes of holding another session some time in the future.

Attendance Sunday fell somewhat below Saturday's opening day figure of 150, but enthusiasts present heard with interest descriptions of space ships and experiences in them as told by persons who claimed they had seen or ridden in them.

Adamski told the group at one of the lectures that the earth "had moved off its axis in 1945" and that was what had caused the flurry of Flying Saucer sightings in recent years. He suggested that possibly the visitors from outer space were attempting to help the earth get back on its axis.

The report that some 50 planes were due to arrive Saturday afternoon provided unverified. Only sightings reported were made in an assertion by Mrs. Harriet Foster to a visitor that she had sighted two flying saucers about 2 a.m. Saturday.

George Adamski (at left) addressing the audience [78]

An August 8, 1954, San Diego Union news story by Alfred Jacoby said [61]:

> Palomar Mountain Saucer Savants Serve Up Cool Cups of Knowledge
>
> George Adamski and Desmond Leslie, high priests of the space cult in San Diego County, held court here yesterday at a flying saucer forum. It featured arguments over the psychic values of space sightings, new drawings of Venusian interplanetary ships – and a hot rumor that an entire squadron of saucers would fly over at 2 p.m. The latter didn't show up. But Adamski and Leslie, authors of a book on flying saucers, and about 250 space

enthusiasts ranging from a 6-week-old child to several men and women nearing the century mark, apparently weren't disappointed.

Leslie, a tall Englishman with a Hollywood Oxford accent, appeared in morning discussions and answered questions. Adamski, who has operated a refreshment stand near the Palomar Observatory [PB: located at the bottom of South Grade Road / Highway S6 just above Highway 76, and thus is not "near the Palomar Observatory."] spoke at an afternoon meeting. Leslie told his admirers how he and Adamski had found they were working together on the same kind of book and decided to collaborate their works.

"Are these people in flying saucers hostile?" asked a red haired woman with deep, intense eyes. "Oh, no," Leslie answered. "Only when we attack first do they fight back."

The small group which was crowded around Leslie frowned as one at the thought of anyone attacking a saucerman.

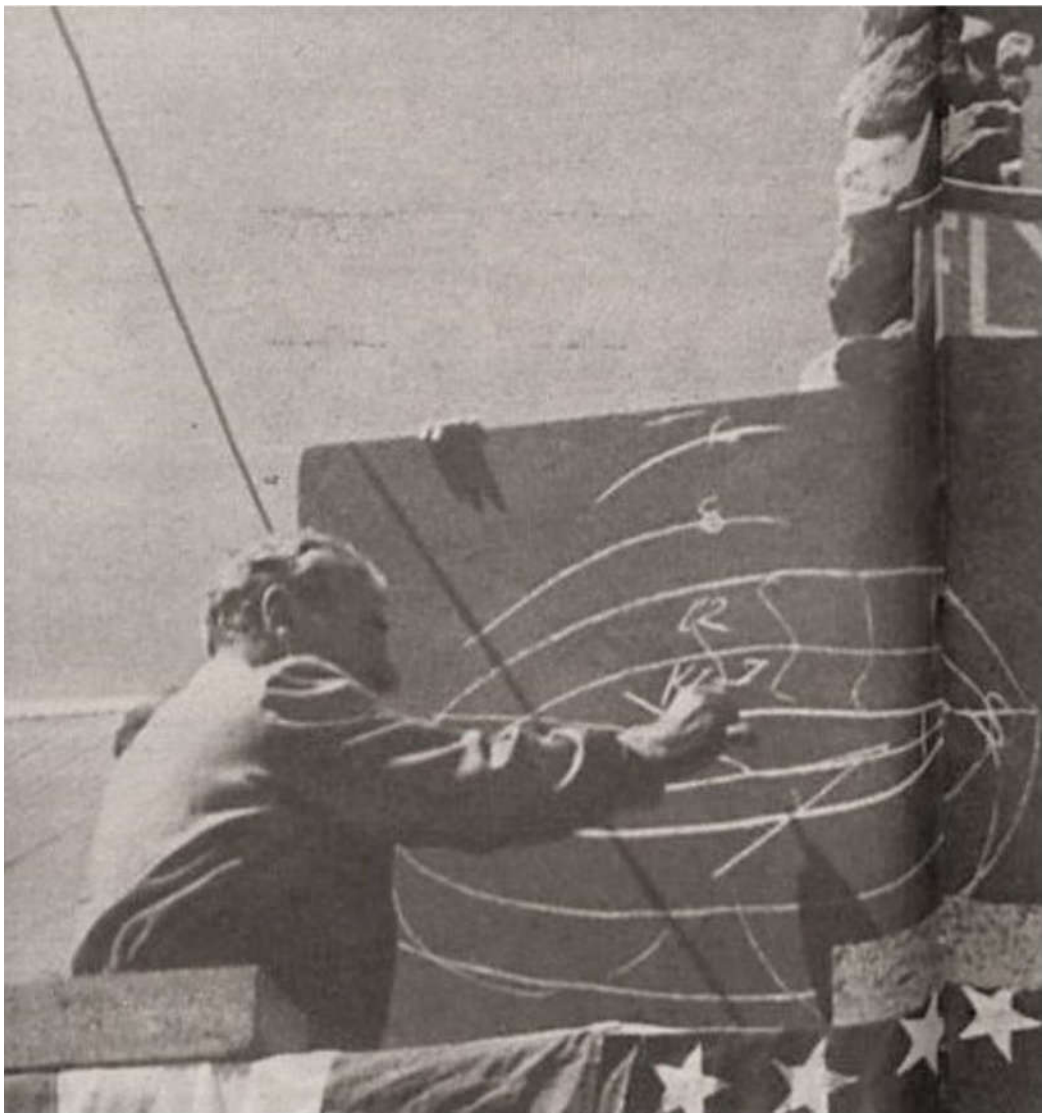
"Take the case of that scoutmaster in Florida who took a machete and hacked a Venus space ship," Leslie continued. "The Venusians had to fight back to defend themselves."

Again the crowd sighed – this time in sympathy with the wandering Venusians. Meanwhile, sales continued briskly at the refreshment stands, where soft drinks sold for 15 cents and hamburgers for 35 cents. At 12:25 p.m, a new shipment of soft drinks was rushed to the scene. Leslie and Adamski didn't dominate the show, however. Another speaker was Donald Frye, who told of a trip he made from White Sands, N.M., to New York City and back in 30 minutes as a passenger in a Venusian ship. This happened in 1945, Frye said, although he did not report it for several years. On the outskirts of the crowd, a gray-haired man who identified himself, as Dr. X explained that the whole thing was a government plot. "They" – referring to opponents of Flying Saucerdom – "put the inventor of the first saucer in jail for five years," he said. "They wanted to keep it hushed up." "Have you ever seen a flying saucer?" asked a gray-haired woman who previously had identified her male companion – also gray-haired –

as “my wild Irishman.” “I have ridden in flying saucers many times,” Dr. X said with a deep knowing look.

Another visitor, who did not identify himself, merely walked around Diogenes-like carrying a lantern. Cindy Handal, a redhead from Hollywood, explained to a 79-year-old Escondido man that she really was a reincarnation and is in her third life. “There’s no law which says a person can’t live as a hermit,” she said. The Escondidan, wearing a pince-nez and a worried look, anxiously attempted to tell Adamski about a saucer sighting he had made. He finally gave up. “I was afraid they might be Russian ships,” he told a woman who said she was Winogene Savage of Lynwood, a spiritual adviser. “Oh, no,” Miss Savage assured him, “I know that the United States has everything the Russians have, and better.” Then she turned away to explain to another visitor that she is teaching brain radiations.

Absent from the forum were scientists from Palomar Observatory, further up the mountain. Aloof from the talk of psychic contacts and sound bands, they presumably were sleeping after a night of work with the 200-inch telescope which has made the mountain famous. But down the mountain, the talk of saucers went on far into the night. And soft drinks were 15 cents each.



George Adamski lecturing
O.Cruzeiro, www.the-adamski-case.nl

The San Diego Evening Tribune ran this news story on August 9, 1954 [62]:

> Saucer Seers Gather, Hear About 'Cigars'
>
> PALOMAR MOUNTAIN -- Mile-long "flying cigars," the mother ships for flying saucers, were described in detail here yesterday by believers in the theory of spying spaceships. A crowd of 2,000 attending the windup session of a two-day flying saucer forum, heard the claims. "Professor" George Adamski, noted saucer spotter, speaking from the porch of the Skyline Lodge at the 5,300-foot level, told the crowd, seated on chairs and on the ground in an area which extended to a nearby meadow: "These ships shaped like huge cigars hover above us thousands of feet up, bringing whole squadrons of saucers to observe us." Adamski, author of a recent

book on saucers, called the forum so fellow believers also could hear Desmond Leslie, 35, of London, one of England's spaceship theorists. Leslie is touring the U.S. The group is not organized. Most of those attending came from Southern California communities, sheriff's deputies who patrolled the area said. Though roads were jammed, there were no "incidents." Many nodded, approvingly, as claims were made. Pamphlets were offered for sale and a collection taken. A number of persons arose to declare personal sightings of saucers and trips in them.

Adamski and Leslie gave this picture of saucers: "The small ones, which are mere mechanisms with no crews, vary in size from 20 inches to 12 feet. Those with crews, of course, are much larger. The crews resemble earthlings. They wear plain green suits. They have no rank – it's a very democratic organization."

Where are the saucers from" From Venus, Saturn, Mars, and some planet asserted to be "on the other side of the moon." They come merely to observe – not to fight. Saturday, rumors were spread that a formation of saucers would fly over Palomar Mountain as a salute. They failed to show.

Skyline Lodge, c1954 Ed Trudersheim photo

59 Resort Rentals

SKYLINE Lodge, Mt. Palomar, hotel, dining room. HI 4-7580 for reservations, also open for parties.

San Diego Union, September 25, 1954, page 26, column 5

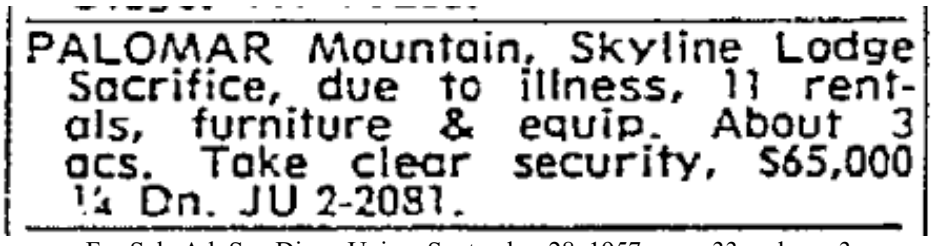
SKYLINE LODGE
TOP OF MT. PALOMAR

Both summer & winter resort Health spot. 2½ ac. Illness forces sale. Make offer. Easy terms.

SOUTHLAND REALTY

BE 4-8057 AT 4-6665

For Sale Ad: San Diego Union, November 12, 1955, page 21, column 8



PALOMAR Mountain, Skyline Lodge Sacrifice, due to illness, 11 rentals, furniture & equip. About 3 acs. Take clear security, $65,000 ¼ Dn. JU 2-2081.

For Sale Ad: San Diego Union, September 28, 1957, page 33, column 3

A November 26, 1958, Escondido newspaper column on Palomar Mountain news said [51]:

> Skyline Lodge, closed for several years, is about to reopen. Mr. and Mrs. Art Koenig have sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Pate, who came west recently from Syracuse, N.Y. The lodge was built on the most sightly spot on Camp Sites, when that area was opened. It was paid for with funds raised by the cabin owners and served as a clubhouse. The Koenigs bought it in the 1940's, added to it and opened the building as a lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Pate are moving in this week and plan to open the hotel and dining room by the first of the year.

A December 3, 1958, Escondido newspaper column on Palomar Mountain news said [52]:

> Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Pate, new owners of Skyline Lodge moved up last week. They plan to open the restaurant the first of the year. They have hotel rooms now ready for occupancy.

A January 28, 1959, Escondido newspaper news story said [53]:

> Skyline Lodge Opens Hotel, Cafe On Palomar Mountain
>
> Skyline Lodge on Camp Sites has formerly opened. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Pate started receiving visitors last December, but there was much repair work to be done before the restaurant was ready to begin serving meals. It has been approved for an "A" card. …

A May 12, 1960, Escondido newspaper column on a card addressed to the non-existent Palomar Mountain Chamber of Commerce requesting reservations at an inexpensive hotel within walking distance of the Hale Observatory, had this ending sentence [54]:

> In fact there is no hotel of any variety on any part of the mountain since Skyline Lodge closed.

The purchase of Skyline Lodge by the Pates had fallen through.

PALOMAR Mt. Skyline Lodge for sale. Or lease dining room. HI 8-5981

For Sale Ad: San Diego Union, July 22, 1961, page 32, column 6

Mildred Koenig in front of Skyline Lodge fireplace, undated [27]

The San Diego Union newspaper had a weather story in March 1964, mentioning Mildred Koenig of Skyline Lodge [55]:

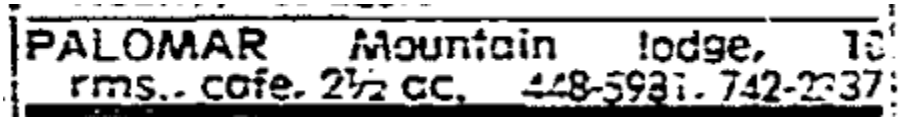
> … on Palomar, Mildred Koenig of Skyline Lodge measured 18 inches [of snow] and said the advance guard of the snow legions already had arrived for toboggan and saucer riding, snowball slinging and snowman building.

From Nona Litchfield's interview of Mildred Koenig [27]:

> Not until autumn [1965, after a summer closure, during which the Lodge was rented to Goodyear Aerospace to track their Pegasus satellite], and Art away on a job did [Mildred] realize how close she was to complete exhaustion. She tried staying open on a limited weekend-only basis, but people came by, happy to see it again open to the public. She was too tired; everything seemed an effort. She and Art decided to close up for a while, allowing Mildred time to regain her strength and vitality. They stayed at their Santee home, going to Palomar only occasionally to check on things. Not having considered vandalism, they were sick when they went up and found the lodge had been broken into, with

considerable losses. They then tried various lease arrangements, none of which proved satisfactory.

… She and Art thought it through, and together they planned to try again, under a less stressful, more limited type of operation. They worked out a contract with a bus service taking tourists to the Observatory. She served only one mid-day service taking tourists to the Observatory. She served only one mid-day meal, cafeteria style, accommodating just one bus at a time. …



For Sale Ad: San Diego Union, July 4, 1967, page 41, column 5

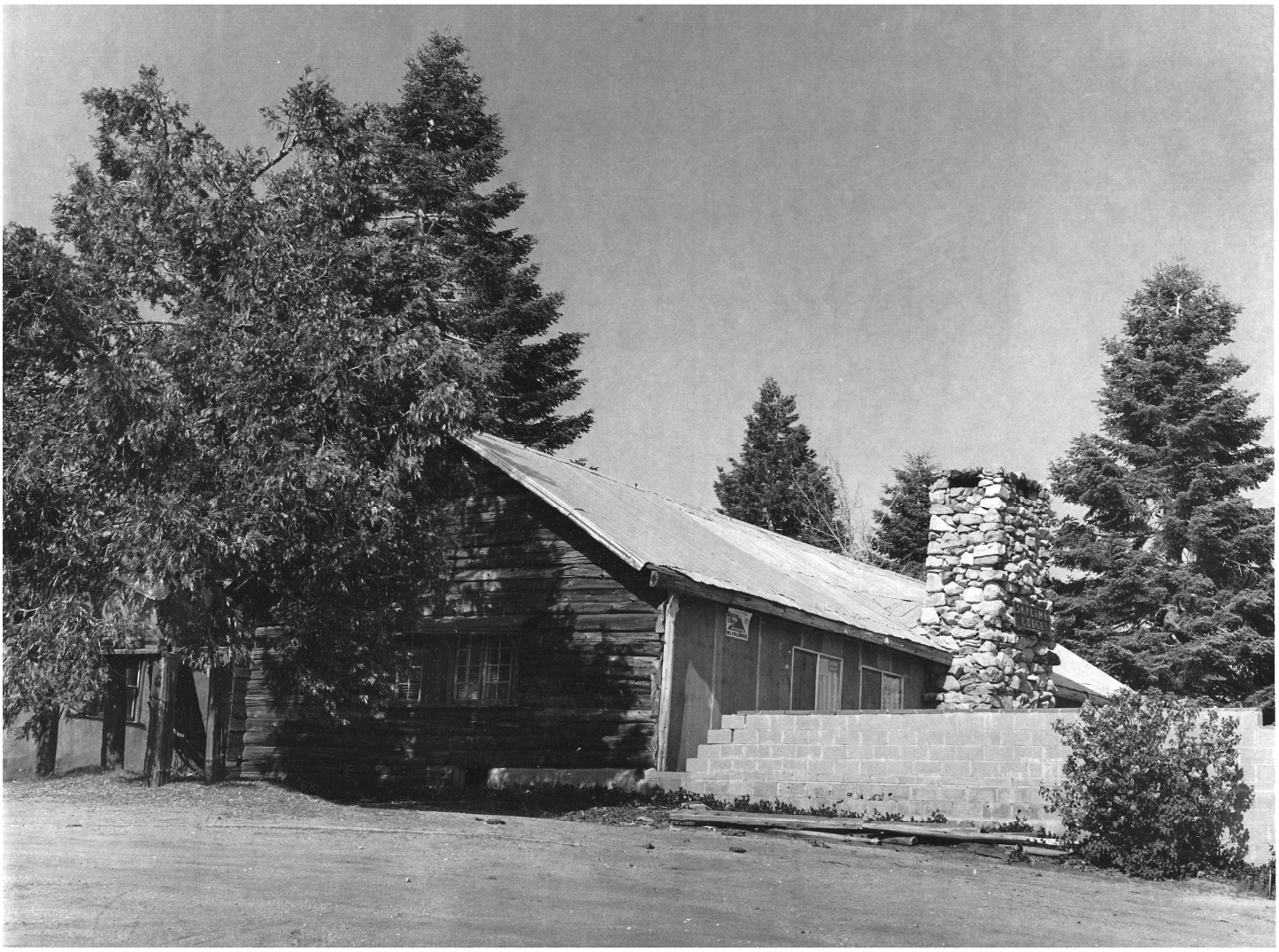
For Sale Ad: San Diego Union, March 22, 1968, page 51, column 1

In August 1968, the San Diego County Planning Commission denied the Koenigs' request to rezone the 3.1 acres of Skyline Lodge from R-1 (single family residential on 10,000 square foot lots) to E-1 (estate, one-acre lots) and a special use permit for a resort of 25 camping sites and recreational facility [56].

SKYLINE LODGE & HOTEL
TOP of Mt. Palomar. Excellent for
rest home or health resort. Large
kitchen & D.R. + many extras.
2½ acres. $65,000, submit trades.
Eves. 444-3021.
Lyle Morton Rltrs. 442-0801
For Sale Ad: San Diego Union, June 7, 1969, page 39, column 8

From Nona Litchfield's interview of Mildred Koenig [27]:

> For a while, with the summers limited pretty much to the tour business, and the rest of the year to weekenders, by reservation only, they managed. But Mildred still tired too easily – "The mountain just seemed to turn against me." In 1971, heartsick at having to face reality, they put it on the market. What they were selling, of course, was not only a business, but a home, and a lifestyle, suitable only to a few buyers. Their first sale fell through.
>
> But it sold the next year, in 1972, exactly twenty five years after they had first peered through the windows. They sold it completely furnished, taking with them only their personal collections which had lent the Lodge its unique flavor. …



Skyline Lodge, c1970 Eloise Perkins photo

Oliver Brown, 2010 Bonnie Phelps photo

After the Lodge's sale to Mike Papich, Oliver Brown (1918 – 2013) of Palomar Mountain managed it as a restaurant and hotel for eleven years [92].

Oliver Brown said [92]:

> I'd drive my Chevrolet to Escondido and fill up the trunk with steaks. When we ran out of steaks, the kitchen was closed. The Hollywood actress, Joan Crawford stayed at the Lodge. She had been ill for a short period prior to coming up and relaxed at the lodge while recovering. She ate well and often… One of my customers was one of the actor's agents in Hollywood, Jimmy Sands. Jimmy would come with four or five people on the weekends to get away from the big city and noise of the studios. We occasionally had some cowboy singers and had a piano in the dining room and once in a while people take a turn at the piano. Most often they were very good, but it was unofficial and unexpected. I managed the Lodge until Betty Lowe and her family purchased the Lodge and took it over.

COUPLE wanted to manage Restaurant and Lodge. Write M. G. Papich, Rt. 3, Box 717, Escondido 92025. State age, qualifications and salary.

Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, June 4, 1970, page 31, column 3

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENGAGE IN THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Subject to issuance of the license applied for, notice is hereby given that the undersigned proposes to sell alcoholic beverages at the premises, described as follows:

East end Crestline Drive, 3 Miles East of Post Office, Palomar Mountain, San Diego County

Pursuant to such intention, the undersigned is applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for issuance on original application of an alcoholic beverage license (or licenses) for these premises as follows:

On-Sale Beer

Anyone desiring to protest the issuance of such license may file a verified protest at any office of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control or by mail to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 1215 O Street, Sacramento, California 95814, so as to be received within 30 days of the date the proposed premises were first posted, stating grounds for denial as provided by law. The premises are not now licensed for the sale of alcoholic beverages. The form of verification may be obtained from any office of the Department.

PAPICH, Linda & Michael G.
Name of applicant

PUB. 1T: August 19, 1971 (7297)

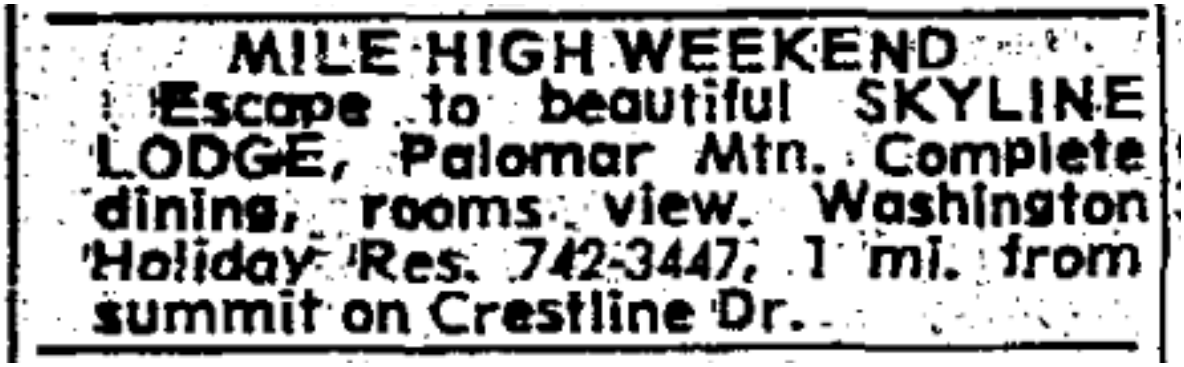
Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, August 19, 1971, page 31, column 2

LEASE Resort Lodge, Palomar Mt., 10-rm. Hotel + Restaurant. Lic. on sale beer, 2½ Ac. all equip & fixtures. $475 mo. M. Papich, P.O. Box 733, Escondido, Ca. 92025

San Diego Union, December 3, 1971, page 55, column 5

ESCAPE! Skyline Lodge, Palomar Mtn. Dine a mile in the sky. Rooms, view & rustic beauty. Res. 742-3447; 1 mi. from summit on Crestline Dr.

San Diego Union, February 10, 1972, page 66, column 8


MILE HIGH WEEKEND
Escape to beautiful SKYLINE LODGE, Palomar Mtn. Complete dining, rooms, view. Washington Holiday Res. 742-3447, 1 mi. from summit on Crestline Dr.

San Diego Union, February 17, 1972, page 66, column 1

640
Resort Property
MT. RESORT for business or pvt. use. Lodging & dining at 5800 ft. elev. $87,000. M. G. Papich P. O. Box 733, Escondido, CA 92025.

San Diego Union, January 4, 1974, page 58, column 1

SKYLINE LODGE
Rustic lodge & restaurant on 2.40 acres, top of Palomar Mountain, ideal for church group, fraternal organization, or the independent inn keeper. Well priced, with terms. Will consider some trade.
L. BRUCE STALLARD Co. Inc.
REALTORS
235-6171

For Sale Ad: San Diego Union, March 26, 1974, page 48, column 4

UNITED FARM AGENCY

- SKYLINE Lodge on Palomar Mt. with 10 units and fully equipt. kitchen located on 2½ acres $87,500 # 2072.
- 80 ACRES w/water 2 miles so. of Rancho Santa Fe. $5,000 Ac. # 2071.
- LOVELY Retirement home on golf course $75,000. # 2069.
- 20 AC. 5 mi. north of Rainbow at $2,000 Ac. # 2068.

UNITED FARM AGENCY
619 S. Escondido Blvd.
746-1213, 747-1858, 743-0829
FREE NATIONWIDE CATALOG

For Sale Ad: Escondido Times-Advocate, January 15, 1975, page 32, column 3

SKYLINE LODGE Palomar Mtn. now open. 10% off food & lodging with this ad thru Dec. 30th. 742-8984; 747-4213.

Escondido Times-Advocate, December 5, 1975, page 34, column 2

The cast and crew of the Crater Lake Monster film stayed at the Skyline Lodge while filming on Palomar Mountain.

BIJOU
747-6636
309 East Grand Ave.
FILMED LOCALLY
The Producer wishes to thank the communities of Huntington Lake, California; Palomar Mountain, California; Julian, California; and Carlsbad, California
Special Thanks to Joe Wierick, the staff of China Peak Ski Lodge, the residents of Canadian Village, David Littig, John Clarke and Blaine Ellis, Oliver Brown of Skyline Lodge, Bev and Ralph Kulk of Summit Grove, Jack Ritchie, Huntington Lake Docks, the Del Dios Country Store, the U.S. Division of Forestry, Carl Bergman
PG
THE CRATER LAKE MONSTER
From the prize-winning book about the boy who sailed around the world on a 23-foot sloop
The Dove

Escondido Daily Times-Advocate, September 20, 1977, page 21, column 7

The San Diego Union ran a story on Lowe's Skyline Lodge in July 1980 [57]:

A Natural High: Lodge Living Atop Palomar

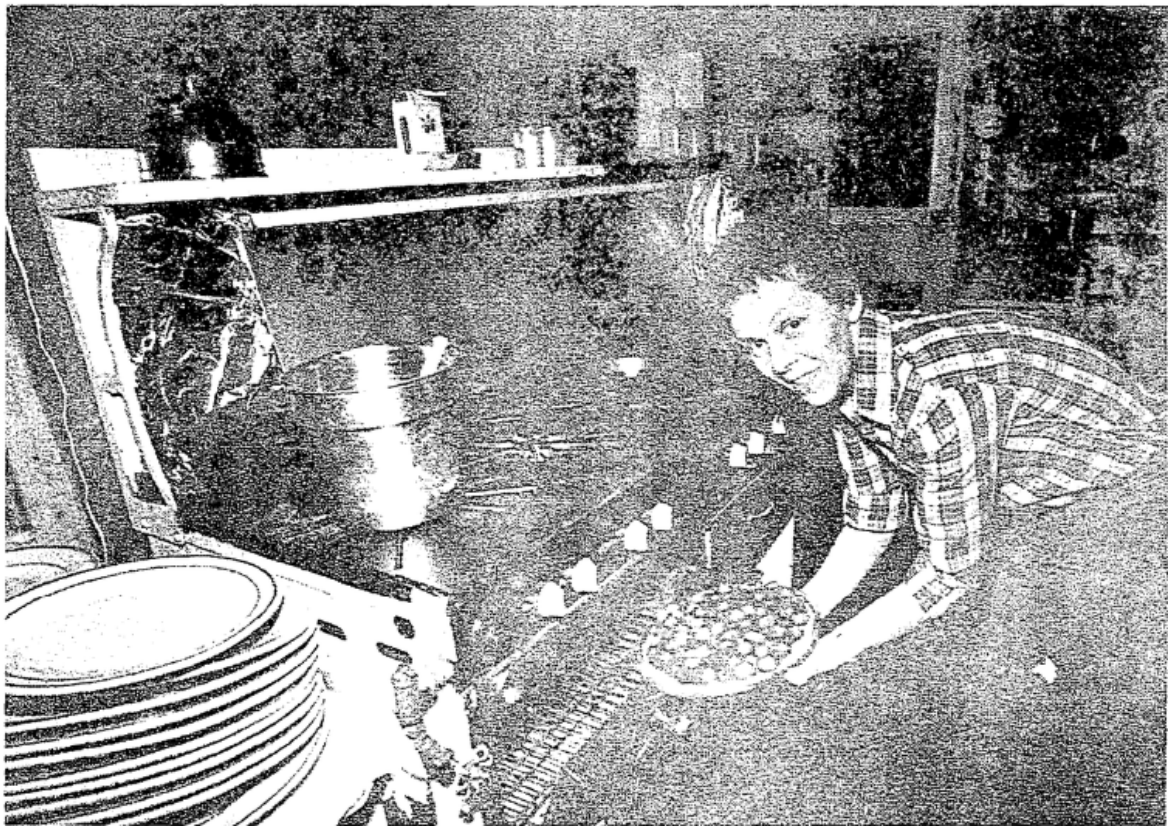
The road up Palomar Mountain is edged, this time of year, with tiny yellow and purple wildflowers, and deep green pine and cedar trees, already dusty with summer air. The mountain is dry and dusty year-round, says Betty Lowe, who has lived there a year now, as resident-owner of Lowe's Skyline Lodge up Crestline Road beyond the county park. And in that year, she's learned a lot, she adds, both in running a lodge and living on a mountain. She has worn a dress twice on the mountain in that year; blue jeans and plaid shirt are her usual working clothes. And she's learned to get along, on a mountain, making do with what's there, listening to the quiet and the birds, living with wood fires in winter, flies and mosquitos in summer. But the seasons change, and that's the big lure of the mountain, Lowe says.

Born in Kentucky 43 years ago, she never really liked non-seasonal Southern California, even though she and husband Bob, an electrical engineer, have a house in Vista. So Betty and four of the five Lowe children – one son is in the Army in Germany – currently live at the lodge, although visiting "down below" often. The family includes Linda, 19, Julia, 14, Drew, 12 and Alice, 9.

"I love the mountains," Betty says, settling in with a glass of wine in the dining room of the lodge, the afternoon sun casting narrow shadows through the slatback wood chairs before long tables. 'I missed the seasons and the rolling country. I don't go down the mountain any more than I have to."

The Lowes visited Palomar first to try to find a cabin to buy, but then heard about the lodge for sale and decided to buy it.

"I felt that I ought to be holding my own," Betty says. "It's a lot to ask of your partner, all this up and down the mountain. But Bob does a lot to help. He comes up several times a week, and he's starting cooking the Saturday night steaks. He also, and it's a big one, keeps my checkbook in order."



Betty Lowe in the kitchen [57]

Skyline Lodge was built about 1922, Betty thinks, and when they took down a wall to convert a walk-in icebox to a refrigerator, newspapers from 1922 apparently had been used as insulation.

"This place needed a lot of work when we bought it," Betty says. "We've replaced the stoves, the furniture, the music system, and that's just a start. We have six rooms for rent but only one with a private bath. The others share. Rates are from $22.50 to $27.50. When people ask what you can do here, I say 'nothing.' There is no television set, for instance. But you can read, walk, take pictures, ride bikes, talk to the people you meet, listen to the birds, watch the squirrels. We don't get much business, I suppose, because we're off the beaten path and I don't advertise. One hundred and thirty-eight families live year round on the mountain, I've heard, but who knows how many weekenders come up here? We get a lot of our business from Palomar Observatory, too. People will get there too late, ask for a place to stay, and they'll send them over here. We've had visitors from England, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Germany, Brussels. You meet the nicest people here. When we started out, I served meals all week, but

we've cut that down to breakfast and lunch, dinner on Friday and Saturday. Last year I cooked every day, but you have to have time to clean and do other things. There are no days off in this business unless you take them."

The lodge is a long, Lincoln-log type building with a central dining-community room built around a huge native stone fireplace with thick wood mantel. The room is paneled and one corner has been furnished with an antique rocker, oval pictures, a wood bookcase and iron wood-burning stove. A counter for serving coffee and lunches lines the area by the front door, and several old display cases hold candy bars, crafts such as wood-framed mirrors and crocheted potholders made by the mountain people, plus a collection of china and glassware that Betty is selling on consignment. There is what she considers a fairly small kitchen with several big freezers, sink and dishwasher, a microwave oven that doesn't function properly on the mountain's electrical system, and an old black propane gas-fired stove with small grill and two ovens. One of these "never goes above 200 degrees," Betty says, while the other "does what it damn well pleases." A long building behind the main lodge houses the bedrooms. There are various outbuildings, including a small cottage where a handyman lives, on the two and a half acre property.

Life on the mountain means fitting in with the community, getting involved in the Volunteer Fire Department, offering the lodge for Bingo games every Friday night, and closing down on Labor Day for the department's big annual picnic, which is held in the lodge parking lot. It also means putting on the community and 4-H Christmas parties, and putting up a giant Christmas tree for which everyone brought homemade ornaments. But the volunteer fire department is a special concern. "They're trying to become self-sufficient," she says of the group, to which almost every able-bodied man, and at least four women, belong.

Life a mile high also means coping with animals: squirrels, bobcats, racoons, deer, mountain lions, coyotes and snakes. There are the usual snake stories – the snake that dropped down from the rafters in the middle of the ladies' meeting, and another snake

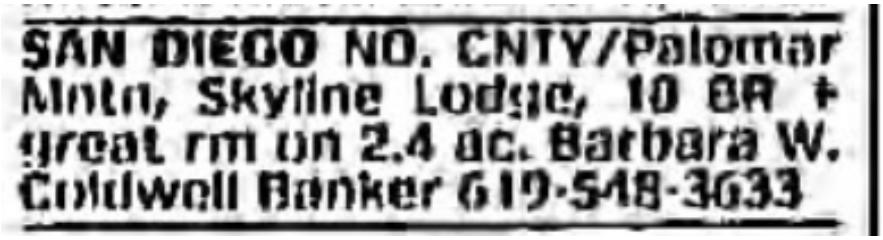
> across the hallway which Linda just managed to jump. There are also the almost tame racoons who come onto the patio for catfood. And there's always something to do. She cooks mostly homestyle meals, Betty says, and expects anywhere from "zero to 26" guests for dinner. Some weekends, there have been 38, which means a rush for the freezer. And cooking lots of fresh corn on the cob, then having few guests means eating plenty of leftovers.
>
> "We're 40 miles from the nearest grocery, and when you forget something, you kick yourself a lot," she says, remembering the time she and the kids raced all over the mountain trying to borrow raspberry jello for a special dessert. She does all of her own baking by recipe, but everything else is "a pinch of this, a pinch of that." The weather changes frequently on the mountain, and summer days are cool enough for a wool sweater in the morning, hot by mid-afternoon. There was very little snow last winter – maybe six to eight inches – but the year before, snow lasted from November to May. This May was nice except for the ice storm, Betty says, which was dangerous but beautiful with crystals of ice sparkling on every branch and twig as the sun edged up over the hills. Part of Palomar's charm, Betty believes, is that it's "just about the only unspoiled mountain left in Southern California. The San Bernardino mountains are just big cities. The last time we stayed there, it was like staying beside a freeway, with the cars roaring up and down." By contrast, Palomar is quiet and serene with towering trees beside the lodge and views down to the Coronado Islands from the terrace. "I'm a tree person," Betty says with satisfaction. "I'd rather have trees than a view. And I don't miss the flatlands, the rooftops and the automobiles, the 'brown-ness' of it all down below. I don't miss that a bit."

In March 1981, the Los Angeles Times ran a story on visiting the Palomar telescope, that included Lowe's Skyline Lodge [58]:

> Besides camping, the only accommodation on Palomar Mountain is the rustic Skyline Lodge that was reopened by Betty and Bob Lowe two years ago. Originally built in 1922 as a clubhouse for mountaintop retreaters, the lodge has 6 of its 10 upstairs sleeping rooms fixed up for overnight guests. The only room with private

> bath rents for $27.50 a night, single or double, while the others are $5 less and the bath is down the hall. Guests, and local folks who go for the Lowes' family-style meals, gather in the homey lodge warmed by two wood-burning stoves and a huge fireplace. The TV set has been tossed out, so you can settle on the couch with a good book or tackle a jigsaw puzzle. The Lowes will share their filling family fare if you tell them in advance what meals you want. Walk-ins are welcome for breakfast and lunch on weekends and for dinner on Fridays and Saturdays. The Saturday night spread features T-bone steak and trimmings for $7.95. You'll pay a little more for dessert; usually home-made pie, and beer and wind are available. For room reservations or more information about meals, call the Lowe family at …

A San Diego Union article on Palomar in November 1984 said "if you want to buy, Betty and Bob Lowe have Skyline Lodge on Crestview Drive for sale [93]."



For Sale Ad: Los Angeles Times, October 28, 1990, page 165, column 1

In March 1987, Bob Pederson who was affiliated with the Calvary Chapel in Orange County purchased Skyline Lodge from Betty and Robert Lowe [94].

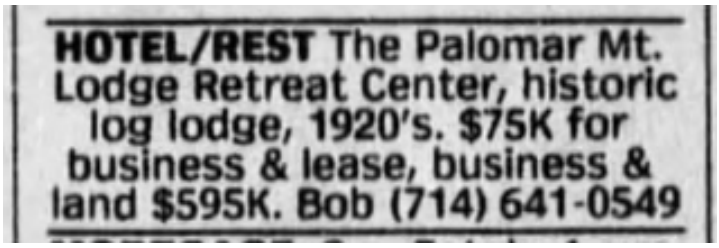
A November 1990 article in the North County Blade-Citizen on professional musician Sam Warner of Cardiff mentioned this [59]:

> [Sam Warner] hopes to add his musical talent to a new venture he and his new wife Sharlyn are embarking on. They're buying the Palomar Mountain Lodge and will run it like TV's Bob Newhart ran the Stratford Inn, but possibly with less colorful characters. Warner plans to get out the guitar and sing for his guests. Running an inn was a dream of his wife's, but Warner, who said he has been feeling a little homesick, is glad to be moving into the woods again.

A November 23, 1991, item in the San Diego Union noted [96]:

> Sam Warner… is thankful his father, Harry, is down from Anchorage, Alaska to help run the Palomar Mountain Lodge. It will be open Thanksgiving. Sam's wife, Sharlyn, who does the bed-and-breakfast and other lodge bookkeeping is planning some time in Cardiff to be nearer the hospital. Their first child is due around New Year's. Art Nash, who has been a chef at Yosemite lodges, is doing the cooking. Sam and Sharlyn Warner bought the 10-room former Skyline Lodge on Crestline Road early this year ...

For Sale Ad: Los Angeles Times, July 31, 1992, page 551, column 3


HOTEL/REST The Palomar Mt.
Lodge Retreat Center, historic
log lodge, 1920's. $75K for
business & lease, business &
land $595K. Bob (714) 641-0549
For Sale Ad: Los Angeles Times, February 19, 1994, page 240, column 3

The purchase of the Palomar Mountain Lodge by the Warners seems to have fallen through. A July 1995 column in the San Diego Union-Tribune said [97]:

> Ever dream of owning a B&B? … If so, Robert Pedersen, owner of the vintage Palomar Mountain Lodge, needs to sell his rustic, 10-bedroom, 1920s retreat by September. For $390,000 "or best offer," you get a property complete with an indoor-outdoor fireplace… plus all the furnishings. … A woodworker by trade, he bought the lodge in 1987 and says he has been managing to "break even," renting it out to groups of up to 40, including churches, corporations and the Navy.

HISTORIC PALOMAR LODGE

The famous Palomar Lodge is available. Built in Adirondack-style cedar logs. Has 5000 Esf. on 2.2 level acres. 10 furnished bedrooms, sleeps 40. Has commercial kitchen, newer roof, newer septic system. Could be Bed & Breakfast, retreat center. Call today for appt. **$349,000**

For Sale Ad: North County Times, January 21, 1996, page 68, column 2

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN LODGE
#0246...Wow 10Br, sleeps 40, 5000 esf. of B&B. Views to Mexico. $329,000

For Sale Ad: North County Times, February 24, 1996, page 43, column 5

Palomar Mountain Lodge

Need an Altitude Adjustment? Situated at 5,600 feet atop Palomar Mountain, we are well above the haze and June gloom, yet barely more than an hour drive from anywhere in the county. We feature live music on the weekends and offer a varied full menu from our restaurant. Ask about our mid week special. Rooms start at $54.00 per night

Phone (619) 742-8744 OR FAX (619) 742-3977

San Diego Union-Tribune, June 16, 1996, page 82, column 1

PALOMAR MOUNTAIN LODGE
Charming historic 1920's circa lodge with huge fireplace. 10 bedrooms, full service Restaurant Beer & Wine, and entertainment. Excellent view, near observatory, fishing-great relaxing! Mid Week rate. Call Joe at 619-742-8744.

Los Angeles Times, January 12, 1997, page 262, column 4

In June 2001, Dale and Angelique Norton of Coronado purchased Palomar Mountain Lodge; the Nortons renovated it, and its ten guest rooms were redone [95]. Palomar Mountain Lodge opened in November 2001 [95].

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